



CITY OF VANCOUVER

OTHER REPORT

Report Date: November 24, 2006
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Meeting Date: January 18, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
FROM: Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues
SUBJECT: 2006 Report of the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received for information.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits the foregoing for INFORMATION.

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues for the period from January to November 2006.

BACKGROUND

The Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues was established by Council on December 11, 2003.

Objective

The Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues is advisory to City Council. The mandate of the Committee is to work to enhance access to City services for seniors, and to identify and suggest solutions to gaps and barriers that impede their full participation in all aspects of City life.

Terms of Reference

The Committee:

- advises on matters which affect seniors, including but not limited to;
 - providing input on City policies and reports that affect seniors, e.g. Congregate Housing Guidelines, Accessible and Adaptable Design;
 - monitoring and contributing to City programs to ensure that the needs of seniors are considered, e.g. sidewalk safety, crosswalks, pedestrian lights;
 - acting as a resource and providing information to staff doing work which involves seniors e.g. public involvement processes, CityPlan Visioning;
 - providing input on the design of seniors housing applications received by the City;
- contributes to City programs and policies to ensure that the needs of seniors are considered;
- views City programs and policies through a variety of lenses, including gender, racial origins, income levels, sexual orientation, age and levels of ability;
- works co-operatively with other civic agencies whose activities affect seniors;
- engages in outreach to the seniors' community to disseminate information and encourage participation;
- acts as a conduit for feedback from seniors on civic matters affecting them;
- acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes involving seniors;
- supports groups endeavouring to initiate and develop projects to assist seniors;
- attends City-sponsored public forums to provide information on City programs and receive public input on seniors' issues;
- produces an annual work plan with specific objectives by no later than March of each year, in consultation with its Council and staff liaisons, for distribution to Council and civic departments for information;
- submits an annual report to Council describing its accomplishments for the year, including reference to each objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the Committee has responded.

2006 Interim Committee Members

At its meeting on January 17, 2006, City Council adopted the following motion:

THAT Council appoint those previous incumbents who are willing to serve as interim members to those advisory committees that had existing membership appointed by Council prior to those committees standing discharged under the Vancouver Charter s. 160, listed as follows, until such time as the advisory body component of the Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities Review is completed and successors can be appointed through the City's established advisory body appointment process:

- Advisory Committee on Disability Issues
- Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues
- Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee
- City Creative Task Force
- Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Committee
- First Shaughnessy Advisory Design Panel
- Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee
- Mayor's Working Group on Immigration
- Peace and Justice Committee
- Vancouver Food Policy Council

The following members of the previous Advisory Committee on Seniors Issues agreed to serve as interim members until the Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities Review is completed and City Council decides whether or not this Committee will be re-established:

- Thomas Brunker
- Bruce Chown, Chair
- Dena Dawson, Vice-Chair
- Gillian Fullerton
- Sylvia Gurstein
- Anne Judge
- Bea Leinbach
- Virginia McDade
- Jenn McGinn
- Arun Mehta
- Chris Morrissey
- James Pau
- Lee Purkin-Simpson
- Anna Welbourn
- Katherine Willett

2006 Liaisons

- Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
- Commissioner Loretta Woodcock, Vancouver Park Board
- Desiree Baron, Vancouver Public Library

DISCUSSION

Because of the uncertainty about the continuation of this Committee, a Work Plan for 2006 was not prepared. Nor has the Committee continued its innovative community liaison meetings with seniors throughout the City which it initiated in 2004 and 2005.

1. Guest Presenters

Names of Presenters	Subject
Anne Kloppenborg, Social Planning, City of Vancouver	World Health Organization Age-Friendly Urban Community Project

Names of Presenters	Subject
Patrick Simpson, Advisory Committee on Disability Issues	SAFERhome Design for new Residences
Rudy Lawrence, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC; Jane Dyson, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and Coalition of HandyDART Users (CHU)	Proposal to consolidate all regional handyDART Services within TransLink
Chris Morrissey Committee Member	Health Services for Gay and Lesbian Canadians
Christine Stardom, Chair - Lower Mainland Adult Day Care Centre Association	HandyDART service for clients in Vancouver
Joyce Jones, Chair, Seniors Advocacy Steering Committee	Establishment of Regional Seniors Advocacy Offices
Samara Brock, Social Planning, City of Vancouver	Draft Social Infrastructure Plan
Julie Wall, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House	Westside Peer Support Group
Tom Yang, Manager - Service Contracts, TransLink; Simon Dennison, Program Manager - Service Contracts, TransLink; Lillian Klassen, General Manager - Pacific Transit Cooperative	HandyDART operations in Vancouver
Desiree Baron, Head - Outreach Services, Vancouver Public Library	Monthly updates on library services for seniors.
Charmaine Spencer, SFU Department of Gerontology	Abuse prevention in institutional settings
Bonnie Fenton, Chair - Bicycle Advisory Committee	Introduction of Bicycle Advisory Committee

2. Significant Activities:

Supported the Seniors Advocacy Project and presented a motion to City Council for submission to and subsequent approval by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Nominated several individual members to attend all Vancouver meetings of the Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues and report back to our Committee.

Prepared a report in support of the SAFERhome program, and presented the Committee's recommendation to City Council.

Reviewed Proposals for improvements in handyDART service, including the suggestion by the Coalition of handyDART Users (CHU) that all regional handyDART services be provided by TransLink.

Wrote a letter of support to the Kitsilano Neighbourhood House for its Westside Seniors Peer Support Initiative.

3. Future Directions

As an Interim Committee, we continued to work with City staff and citizens to enhance access to City services for seniors.

On November 2, 2006, City Council approved establishment of a new Accessibility Advisory Committee. When the Accessibility Advisory Committee members are appointed early in 2007, members of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues and the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues will be discharged.

Current members of the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues with a continuing interest in the accessibility of City services for seniors will no doubt apply to become members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

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