

B.5

MOTION ON NOTICE

5. Empowering Citizen Voices on Citizen Advisory Committees

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS

In November 2006, Council established several "Type A" and "Type B" advisory committees with terms that expired on December 7, 2008 to coincide with that Council's term of office. Since their establishment, these advisory committees have undertaken valuable work and provided important advice on policy matters to Council that have materially improved Vancouver's quality of life.

AND WHEREAS

The "rolling together" of several previously existing committees into two larger committees - Advisory Committee on Access and Inclusion and Advisory Committee on Diversity - has not guaranteed representation for each community these committees seek to represent, nor has it proved an optimal situation for advancing the issues of individual communities.

AND WHEREAS

The City created a Women's Task Force in 2004 that developed a Gender Equality Strategy that has not been implemented.

AND WHEREAS

Many advisory committees continue to express confusion about their roles, responsibilities and rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council establish the following Type A committees as advisory to Council and that their mandates and terms of reference remain unchanged:
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - Food Policy Council
- B. THAT Council establish the following Type A committees as advisory to Council and that their terms of reference and size be established as follows:

Committee	Terms of Reference	Number of Members
Multicultural	See attached "Appendix A"	Maximum of 12
LGBTQ	See attached "Appendix A"	Maximum of 12
Women	See attached "Appendix A"	Maximum of 12
Seniors	See attached "Appendix A"	Maximum of 12
Persons with Disabilities	See attached "Appendix A"	Maximum of 12

- C. THAT Council establish the following Type B committees as advisory to staff and that their mandates and terms of reference remain unchanged:
- Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee
 - First Shaughnessy Design Panel
 - Gastown Historic Planning Committee
- D. THAT Council appoint a non-voting Councillor liaison to each of the committees listed in A. and B. and invite the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the Vancouver Board of Education to send a non-voting liaison.
- E. THAT Council direct the City Manager to assign a staff liaison to each committee listed in A. and B. above for the purpose of providing information and advice on City programs and work that is relevant to the mandate and workplan of the assigned advisory body.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to proceed with advertising for all committees requiring appointment with the goal that all committee members be appointed no later than May, 2009. Interim to this date, and to aid in continuity of workplans, existing members from committees listed in A. and C. may continue the committee's existing work should they wish to.
- G. THAT Council direct staff to organize a one-time "Council of Councils" no later than June 2009. This facilitated meeting shall be: open to all members of Type A advisory committees; include information on roles, responsibilities and rights; allow each advisory committee to briefly present their priorities/workplans for the year; and provide information on effective meeting facilitation and follow up.
- H. THAT Council acknowledge the dedication of all outgoing committee members.

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APPENDIX A - Advisory Committee Mandate & Terms of Reference

Multicultural

To enhance access to full participation in City services for multicultural communities.

Terms of Reference

- providing input to civic departments in addressing racism and discrimination issues, e.g. hate crime, graffiti, civic rental policy;
- addressing issues of concern, e.g. housing, youth and seniors, culture and recreation, and community outreach;
- working with City staff on civic events which celebrate diversity, e.g. Cultural Harmony Awards, City Hall Lights Program, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
- contributes to City programs and policies to ensure that the needs of multicultural communities are considered;
- views City programs and policies through a variety of lenses including racial origins;
- works co-operatively with other civic agencies whose activities affect multicultural communities;
- engages in outreach to the multicultural communities to disseminate information and encourage participation;
- acts as a conduit for feedback from multicultural communities on civic matters affecting them;
- acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes in multicultural communities, e.g. civic elections and Community Visions;
- supports groups endeavouring to initiate and develop projects to assist multicultural communities;
- attends City-sponsored public forums to provide information on City programs and receive public input on diversity issues;
- brings to the City Council matters identified by it as requiring action by the City;
- deals with any matters which may be referred to the Committee by Council;
- 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.

LGBTQ

To enhance access to full participation in City services for the LGBTQ communities.

Terms of Reference

- providing input to civic departments in addressing discrimination issues, e.g. hate crime, graffiti, civic rental policy;
- addressing issues of concern, e.g. housing, youth and seniors, culture and recreation, and community outreach;
- contributes to City programs and policies to ensure that the needs of LGBTQ communities are considered;
- views City programs and policies through a variety of lenses including racial origins;
- works co-operatively with other civic agencies whose activities affect LGBTQ communities;

- engages in outreach to the LGBTQ communities to disseminate information and encourage participation;
- acts as a conduit for feedback from LGBTQ communities on civic matters affecting them;
- acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes in LGBTQ communities, e.g. civic elections and Community Visions;
- supports groups endeavouring to initiate and develop projects to assist LGBTQ communities;
- attends City-sponsored public forums to provide information on City programs and receive public input on diversity issues;
- brings to the City Council matters identified by it as requiring action by the City;
- deals with any matters which may be referred to the Committee by Council;
- 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.

Women

To implement the Gender Equality Strategy and, through doing so, enhance access to full participation in City services for women and girls.

Terms of Reference

- Provide advice and develop actions for the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (June 2005);
- Bring to the City Council matters identified by it as requiring action by the City;
- Deal with any matters which may be referred to the Committee by Council;
- Produce 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;
- Provide an annual report to Council on the status of implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy.

Seniors

To enhance access to City services for seniors, the elderly and their families, and to identify and suggest solutions to gaps and barriers that impede the full participation of seniors and the elderly in all aspects of City life.

Terms of Reference

- advises on matters presently under consideration which affect seniors, the elderly and their families;
- monitors City programs to ensure that the needs of seniors, the elderly and their families are considered;
- works co-operatively with Civic Departments, Boards and Commissions whose activities affect seniors, the elderly and their families;
- provides advice and information to Civic Departments, Boards and Commissions;
- disseminates information on civic matters affecting seniors, the elderly and their families;

- encourages and facilitates feedback through existing channels from seniors, the elderly and their families on civic matters affecting them;
- brings to the City Council matters identified by it as requiring action by the City;
- deals with any matters which may be referred to the Committee by Council;
- 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.

Persons with Disabilities

To enhance access to City services for seniors, the elderly and their families, and to identify and suggest solutions to gaps and barriers that impede the full participation of seniors and the elderly in all aspects of City life.

- advises on matters presently under consideration which affect persons with disabilities;
- monitors City programs to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are considered;
- works co-operatively with Civic Departments, Boards and Commissions whose activities affect persons with disabilities;
- provides advice and information to Civic Departments, Boards and Commissions;
- disseminates information on civic matters affecting persons with disabilities;
- encourages and facilitates feedback through existing channels from persons with disabilities on civic matters affecting them;
- brings to the City Council matters identified by it as requiring action by the City;
- deals with any matters which may be referred to the Committee by Council;
- 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.