



CITY OF VANCOUVER

OTHER REPORT

Report Date: June 7, 2005
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Meeting Date: June 30, 2005

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
FROM: Advisory Committee on Disability Issues
SUBJECT: Advisory Committee on Disability Issues: 2004 Annual Report

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 Disability Issues for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2004.

BACKGROUND

The Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (ACDI) was established by Vancouver City Council on December 11, 2003. ACDI is a continuation of the Special Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (SACDI), which was established by Council on November 22, 1977.

The objective of the Committee is to advise Council on ways to enhance the liveability of Vancouver by the removal or easing of the physical, social or other barriers that impede full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of City life.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee

- advises on matters presently under consideration that 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 before the City Council matters it has identified as requiring action by the City;
- deals with any matters concerning persons with disabilities which may be referred to it by Council.

DISCUSSION

1. ACDI provides a forum for members of the public and City staff on a wide variety of issues. During the course of its regular meetings in 2004, thirty-one speakers appeared before the Committee in connection with twenty-four topics.

<i>Topics Discussed</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
Access Awareness Day - sponsored by Social Planning and Research Council of BC, TransLink and BC Transit.	Emese Szucs, SPARC BC
Automated Collection of Garbage and Yard Trimmings Program.	Kevin Van Vliet, Solid Waste Management Engineer Bob McLennan, Solid Waste Management Engineer
Carrall Street Greenway.	Doug Smith, Structures and Greenways Engineer Jessica Chen-Adams, Central Area Planning
Citizens Participate Web Page Project.	Tanya Kaul, Public Access Analyst
Clark/Knight Whole Route Study and proposed improvements to the Clark/Knight Street Corridor.	June Christy, Neighbourhood Centres Melina Scholefield, Strategic Transportation Planning Pat Ryan, Traffic Management

Curb ramp design standards.	Eileen Curran, Streets Administration
Developmental Disabilities Association -overview.	Tasia Alexis, Developmental Disabilities Association
HandyDART and the Accessible Transit Strategic Plan	Bruce Chown, Advisory Committee on Seniors
Internet access for persons with disabilities.	Bryan Oulton, Neil Squire Foundation
London Black Cab vehicles - their potentials as part of Vancouver's taxi fleet and the barriers they face for approval.	Pam Hayes, Vehicle for Hire Inspector
Ministry of Human Resources Canada Pension Plan Advocacy Service.	Tom McGregor, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
Ministry of Human Resources income assistance time limits.	Tom McGregor, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
Mount Pleasant Wellness Walkways Program.	Doug Smith, Structures and Greenways Engineer Alan Duncan, Rezoning Centre David Yankovich, Landscape Designer -Greenways
Olympic Youth Legacy (OYL) initiative.	Booth Palmer, Park Board
Parking Permit Program - statistical data on population served.	Emese Szucs, SPARC BC
People with developmental disabilities in Vancouver - update.	Tasia Alexis, Developmental Disabilities Association
PHILIA Dialogue on Citizenship and Disability Program.	Brian Smith, Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN)
Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network - overview.	Brian Smith, Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN)
Richmond-Airport-Vancouver Rapid Transit Project.	Wayne Pledger, Rapid Transit Office

Southeast False Creek ODP Proposal.	Karis Hiebert, Central Area Planning Rob Whitlock, Housing Centre Jeff Olson, VIA Architecture Ian Smith, Central Area Major Projects Group
Web page for City of Vancouver advisory committees.	Nancy Largent, Public Involvement Coordinator
Zoning and Development Bylaw - proposed text amendments.	Joanne Baxter, Current Planning
1 Kingsway Development.	Melanie Marchand, Facility Design and Management Kathleen Robertson, Busby & Associates
2010 Vision for British Columbians - options for participation.	Patrice Pratt, 2010 Vision, Accessible City

2. Significant activities of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues during 2004.

Early in 2004, the ACDI established sub-committees, whose memberships included, in some cases, both ACDI members and persons from the general public: Demographics, Employment, Housing, Outreach, Transportation and 2010 Vision for BC. Sub-committee activities during the year include the following:

Demographics

- ACDI has made brief survey of federally and provincially published statistics dealing with the prevalence of disabilities and trends to be expected over the next two decades; a preliminary summary of demographic data from various sources has been prepared and given limited distribution in anticipation of a more complete work planned for publication in 2005.

Housing

- ACDI resolved to support in principle the approach taken by City staff in the draft report on Proposed Text Amendments to the Zoning and Development Bylaw the draft Enhanced Accessibility Guidelines.
- ACDI representative Jill Stainsby appeared at two public meetings and before Council to state ACDI's support for the Triage Special Needs Residential Facility. The facility was subsequently unanimously supported by Council with thirty units and full-time staffing.

- CDI members have provided advice to City staff on the design of the I Kingsway Project.
- ACDI's Housing Subcommittee members dealt with an accessible design/code question relating to a public building in Vancouver.
- The Housing Subcommittee began work on a conceptual paper and accompanying set of guidelines concerning "Inclusive Housing." This project, completed by the Subcommittee in early 2005, addresses needs of a variety of disability populations, including those with hidden disabilities.

Employment

- The Employment Sub-Committee has made an on-going review of the problems encountered by persons with disabilities in obtaining and holding employment.
- Employment Sub-Committee members met with the City's "Temp-Pool Services" Manager, Carol Shier, about under-representation of the disabled community among the pool of temporary work employees. The meeting proved informative and enlightening for both the Sub-Committee and Ms. Shier. Barriers for people with disabilities were discussed and proposals to remove or alleviate them were taken under advisement by Ms. Shier. The Sub-Committee and Ms. Shier agreed to share pertinent information and to meet again.
- The Sub-Committee met with representatives of City Departments that deal with short-term appointments. The Sub-Committee discussed the under-representation of people with disabilities in these departments and pointed out the need to give people with disabilities real opportunities for employment. Departmental representatives, in turn, pointed out the limitations they face in overcoming hiring barriers faced by the disabled population.
- Sub-Committee members attended a CUPE/COV Management meeting on perceived barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities within the City government. The meeting was seen as the beginning of a dialogue about how people with disabilities can be accommodated and employed by the City. The Sub-Committee attempted to dispel some misleading stereotypes. Specific barriers encountered by the deaf and hard of hearing were particularly addressed. (This meeting was Part One of a three-part plan. Part Two will involve consultation with persons with disabilities--future employment candidates. Part Three is intended to lay out solutions to increase meaningful employment for people with disabilities within the City government.)
- The Sub-Committee met with the Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues to establish joint positions on such matters as City of Vancouver employment issues and barriers to employment for the populations represented by the two Advisory Committees. As a result of this meeting, two members from the Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues joined the Employment Sub-Committee, forging a liaison between the Advisory Committees.
- Sub-Committee members attended the joint Minister's Council on Employment for Persons with Disabilities and BC Human Resources Management Association (HRMA) presentation at which the new WorkAble Solutions job search web site for persons with disabilities was unveiled.

- Sub-Committee member Susana Cogan and Lorna McCreath of the City's EEO participated in facilitating the hiring of one person with mental illness to work for four months during the summer of 2004 in the Outdoors Garden Program. According to the Department manager, the exercise proved very successful.

Outreach

- Members of ACDI joined in a meeting with representatives of the Advisory Committee on Seniors and the Diversity Issues Committee to establish areas of common interest and joint activity.
- ACDI continues its long-term policy of reaching out to inform city staff on the needs of people with disabilities and to advise on ways of ameliorating difficulties.

Transportation

- ACDI and the Advisory Committee on Seniors have established a joint sub-committee to deal with transportation matters of common interest, such as the HandyDART and Accessible Transit Strategic Plan.
- ACDI has advised City staff on the usefulness and desirability of involving persons who are knowledgeable about the needs of people with disabilities at the earliest possible point in the planning of the RAV Project.

2010 Vision for British Columbians

- ACDI takes an active interest in this 2003 initiative of Council; an ACDI representative sits with City staff as a member of the guiding team.

Other activities

- ACDI endorsed universal design and accessibility components of the Southeast False Creek ODP Proposal in principle.
- ACDI has continued its long-term advocacy of the principles of universal design and has taken notice of their inclusion the Southeast False Creek ODP and in updates to the Childcare Design Guidelines.
- ACDI has responded to requests of City staff by providing advice and input with regard Wellness Walkways, Carrall Street Greenway, Southeast False Creek and the development of a web page for the City's advisory committees.

CONCLUSION

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

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