



Senior's Safety in a Climate Emergency

Excerpted from Minutes 2021-07-19

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MOVED by Commissioner Barker
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

Amendments (deleting A & D and revising/renumbering B & C) MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

Amendment (adding C) MOVED by Commissioner Demers

Final motion as amended:

WHEREAS:

1. The shocking depth of British Columbia's unprecedented heat wave was revealed on July 2, 2021 when the province's Chief Coroner, Lisa Lapointe, reported that over 700 people died suddenly from June 25 to July 1, 2021. Those that had succumbed to the heat were mostly seniors found alone in oven-like homes.
2. Compromised seniors, people with underlying health issues, and people with disabilities are at a great risk of succumbing to extreme heat.
3. We have an aging population in Vancouver and many of these people live alone in homes without adequate air conditioning or other methods to keep them cool.
4. Some people that live alone do not have a safety net of friends and family to check on them in times of emergency.
5. "The reality is we've never seen anything like this in B.C., and in fact the country, but especially in the Lower Mainland," Public Safety Minister, Mike Farnworth, said on June 30. "After we are past this, we will have to take a hard look at what we need to change for the future."
6. The Vancouver Park Board has programs and services at community centres and senior centres. It is also affiliated with clubs and associations, such as the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association, lawn bowling clubs, gardening clubs, Carnegie Centre, Neighbourhood houses and others that engage with seniors across the city.
7. The City of Vancouver Seniors' Advisory Committee and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee have mandates to advise the City and Park Board on matters affecting seniors and persons with disabilities and to engage in outreach with their constituent communities. They have lived experience and expertise to advise on what options could provide the greatest benefit in the next heatwave, especially to those who cannot easily leave their homes.
8. We are in a Climate Emergency and the high temperatures will happen again.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Park Board, in collaboration with Community Centre Associations, work with the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to provide a



framework to facilitate coordination among existing community based services for seniors and people with disabilities in order to more effectively identify support for those vulnerable and isolated who may be negatively impacted by heat waves or other climate emergencies.

- B. THAT staff consult and work closely with the Seniors' Advisory Committee, the People With Disabilities Committee, and others in the identification, development and implementation of the above.
- C. THAT staff report back on the short and long term strategies and recommendations outlined in, but not limited to, the July 5, 2021 memorandum from the Vancouver City Planning Commission titled "Climate Emergency: Extreme Heat and Air Quality Mitigation".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY