

Planning and Development Committee
Tuesday May 16th, 2017
7:00 pm in the Conference Room
Excerpted- BritPlan55+ Presentation Notes

Present: Alice Munro, Chris Morrissey, Alissa Reed, Cyndia Cole, Nanci Blu, Micah Waskow, Patricia Gamboa, Madeleine MacIvor, Ian Marcuse, Pat Davitt, Nancy Strider, Christopher Dalton, Levi Higgs, Joseph Sparovec, Spencer Lindsay (CoV staff), Esther Frid, Lawrence Cofield, John Truchan, Jen Holden, Annie Danilko, Vera Jones, Ellen Woodsworth, Penny Street

Britannia Staff: Lindsay Grant (recorder), Cynthia Low

1. **BritPlan55+ Presentation** (see attached document “Claiming Space for Seniors”)
 - Presenters: Nancy Strider, Chris Morrissey & Madeleine MacIvor on behalf of BritPlan55+ membership
 - BritPlan55+ has been gathering Britannia Renewal feedback from a diverse group of older adults in the community through a series of events, meetings, and informal discussions, and circulating updates and information on the project
 - AML 55+ centre has operated for 41 years, and was originally built as the result of a community-led “brick by brick” campaign
 - We have an aging population: by 2031 it is projected that 1 in 4 Canadians will be 65+. 10 years post completion of the Britannia Renewal the average age in Grandview Woodlands will be 55.
 - Recent City of Vancouver reports support the need for safe, inclusive places for seniors: see particularly *City of Vancouver Seniors Dialogues: Summary Report (2013)* and *The Age Friendly Action Plan (2013-2015): A Safe, Inclusive and Engaging City for Seniors*
 - Currently there are 3 dedicated City of Vancouver Seniors’ Centres citywide, and 4 additional community centres with dedicated seniors spaces (including Britannia).
 - Sunset Community Centre was redeveloped in 2007 without a seniors centre, in 2017 Vancouver City Council approved the building of a seniors centre at the site
 - Emphasis on the importance of tackling social isolation and exclusion. Time-limited programs are not sufficient- there also needs to be dedicated, welcoming “hang-out space”.
 - Role of seniors centre in supporting holistic well-being of seniors and Elders in the community: body, mind, spirit, heart (see attached for more detailed space and program needs)

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- The development of a seniors centre is supported by recent neighbourhood planning processes- see specifically the *Grandview Woodland Community Plan (2016)* and the *Grandview-Woodlands Citizens' Assembly (2015)*
- Conclusion: BritPlan55+ is advocating for “a renewed and dedicated seniors’ centre within or adjacent to the renewed Britannia Community Centre with appropriate staffing

2. Questions and Discussion

- Comment: Echoing the need for hang out space where people can feel a sense of belonging and ownership in addition to “programmed” space. The AML 55+ Centre has become a model of “reconciliation in action” the diversity of seniors, including Indigenous Elders, Latin American, LGBTQ2S, Vietnamese seniors connecting there is impressive and continues to broaden.
- Comment: This presentation and the recommendations in it were reviewed and endorsed by the Seniors, Elders, and Advocates Committee at the most recent meeting. Seniors’ space is a core community need for isolated seniors and caregivers- many of which are living on low income, alone, isolated, dealing with mobility and health challenges, grieving losses. We need a living village rather than sterile program space.
- Comment: At the Queensborough Community Centre it was decided to integrate all seniors’ programming into mainstream programs and spaces.
- Response: This is similar to the Australian model of integrating day cares, play centres into intergenerational community spaces. We need to be mindful of who this serves and how well- proximity is not engagement, what is required is strategic relationship-building.
- Comment: People primarily build relationships with peers in their age groups due to being at common life stages, with more shared needs, interests, life events.
- Response: Dedicated spaces are needed, however we can also think about different shared spaces (kitchens, common areas) and how they can be designed to encourage intergenerational integration and relationship building- combining the need for privacy and peer-support with the goal of broader community building.
- Question: Interested in how we are defining “dedicated” space- how do we still use the space efficiently, how does it branch off into other spaces, and how do we still encourage community integration?
- Answer: Dedicated space is a central space with unprogrammed seniors lounge and program space which houses most of seniors programming- dislocated seniors programming can present a barrier due to unique accessibility needs, comfort and confidence, and wayfinding. Private space is needed for things like foot nurse visits, and other seniors health and counselling services. This space can also be shared during off hours (as it is currently). If planned to be sufficiently large, and conveniently located, a kitchen could be shared. Any shared kitchen needs to have

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convenient access to the seniors' space, as there is a large demand for the seniors' lunch program. Larger seniors' events and gatherings can be hosted in shared space as well.


- Comment: some of the health issues experienced by seniors like Alzheimers, Dementia, mobility concerns, vision and hearing issues also require seniors' staff with special training and skills, particularly for accommodating needs, and recognizing early signs/ early intervention
- Comment: Seniors centres have specialized requirements including things like wider doors, space for mobility aids, non-slip flooring, considerations for hearing and vision concerns, etc. Everywhere on site should be accessible but to include *all* of these specialized features everywhere would greatly increase cost compared to focusing in on a central seniors space.
- Comment: Notes from this presentation will be passed along to the engagement team. The City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee has also been made aware of BritPlan55+ activities.



Claiming Space for Seniors BritPlan55+

Presentation May 16, 2017
Britannia Community Services Centre
Planning and Development Committee

41 Vibrant Years Britannia's 55+ Centre 1976-2017



INFO DESK BRITANNIA CENTRE
Al Mattison one of
our good citizens
H. SCHMIDT M.B. 11/85

A Great Idea:
THE CREATION OF BRITANNIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE
Patricia J. Devitt and
Karene Martin, Editors
BRITANNIA
BRANCH

Ribbon Cutting
- 800 pair
of scissors -
Opening Day
1976

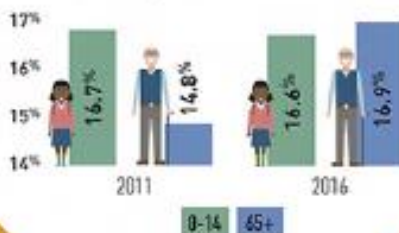
Speeches from balcony
of Seniors Centre
Opening Day
1976

In 2017 the Renewal Process invites us to get involved



A PLACE TO HANG
OUT
A PLACE FULL OF
SMILES
A PLACE THAT KEEPS
ME OCCUPIED

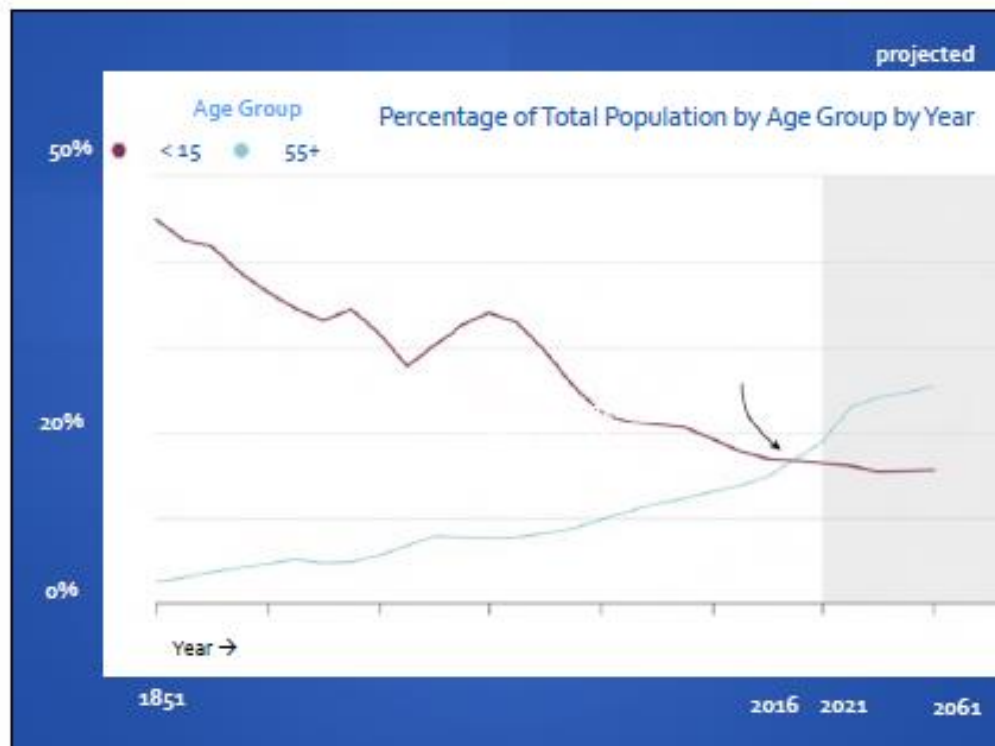
For the first time in census history, the share of seniors aged 65 years and over exceeds the share of children under 15 years...



May 2017
More seniors
than children

By 2031 – ONE out of FOUR
Canadians will be 65+

2016 Census – Average age Grandview-Woodlands



City of Vancouver Reports

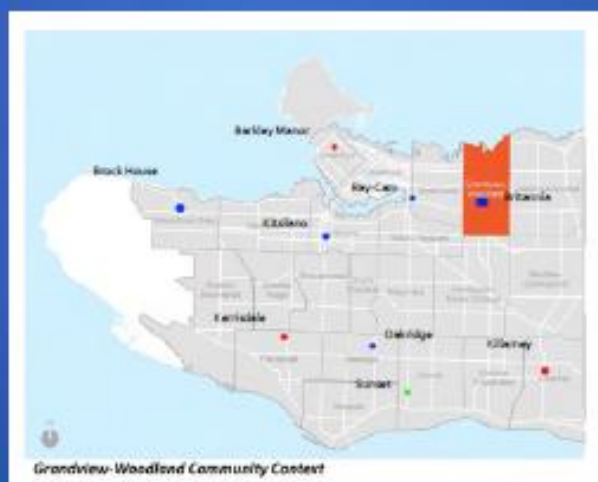
**City of Vancouver Seniors
Dialogues: Summary Report
(May 2013)**



**The Age-Friendly Action Plan –
2013-2015 – A Safe, Inclusive and
Engaging City for Seniors**



Location of Senior Centres







Social Isolation



Brit55+ has consulted & reached out to

- "Seniors Talking With Seniors" Tea (Jan 18/17)
- "Claiming Space For Seniors" Tea (B-Lab Launch, Mar 4/17)
- Partners' Programme Verification (May 5/17)
- SEA (Seniors, Elders & Advocates) meeting (Feb 23/17, April 12/17, May 10/17)
- Seniors' Focus Group (May 12/17)



Britannia's 55+ Centre promotes wholistic well-being of elderly in our community



Britannia's 55+ Centre supports the Body



Location

Parking

Building

Comfortable & welcoming space

Supports physical & nutritional health

Staff "are awesome"

Shared space

Only seniors space in area

What is needed for the 55+ Body



- Proximity to bus stop & parking
- Wayfinding signage
- Design for hearing, vision, mobility & balance issues
- Charging & parking for mobility devices
- Better kitchen
- More programming & office space
- More trained staff

Britannia's 55+ Center supports the Mind



- Accessing information & resources
- Learning new skills & knowledge
- Sharing knowledge, history & experience
- Discussing issues & taking action
- Learning about being a senior/elder

What is needed at Britannia for the 55+ Mind



Spaces for presentations, group discussions, performing and expressive arts, movies.

**Improve & update computer lab
Resource library**

Britannia's 55+ Centre supports the Heart

**Ends social isolation
Social engagement
Provides emotional safety
Supports mental health**



Britannia's 55+ Centre supports the Heart (contd.)



Builds community

Participation in broader community

Civic engagement

Supports caregivers

What is needed for the 55+ Heart



**Warm, welcoming &
safe atmosphere**

Kind space

Private spaces

**Places to practice &
share culture**

Britannia's 55+ Centre supports the spirit

**Spirituality is about relationships:
Relationships with ourselves, with others, with the environment and with the numinous**



Britannia's 55+ Centre supports the spirit

**Relationships with ourselves
Relationships with others
Relationships with the environment
Relationships with the numinous**



What is needed for the 55+ Spirit



- Space for prayer, reflection & meditation
- Renaming
- Space for ceremony, burnings & smudging
- Connect to green space & community garden
- Sustainable design
- Design that reflect Coast Salish aesthetics & reflects a sense of sacred

What we are advocating

A renewed and dedicated senior's center within or adjacent to the renewed Britannia Community Centre with appropriate staffing.

Supported by recommendations in the city's recent planning processes:

As part of the future redevelopment of community facilities, work to expand the availability of flexible and/or purpose-built space for seniors' recreation, programs and services. **(Grandview Woodland Community Plan, 2016)**

Supported by recommendations in the city's recent planning processes:

We encourage the City to upgrade and expand the Britannia Community Services Centre within the next five years. We expect the city to retain as many of the existing amenities as possible during construction and we expect the full current range of amenities to be available at the end of construction. Admissions costs must be kept low to retain functionality of Britannia as a community hub. **(Grandview-Woodland Citizens' Assembly, 2015)**

CONCLUSION:

A renewed and dedicated seniors' center within or adjacent to the renewed Britannia Community Centre with appropriate staffing.

