

## **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 28, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.  
Oak Room, Century House**

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Yolanda Calderon	- Co-Chair
Christine Mendoza	- Co-Chair
Bianca Blackwell	- NWSS Representative
Lina Dockman	- NWSS Representative
Lindsay Gesner	- NWSS Representative
Alex Hatch	- NWSS Representative
Kayoko Mayede	- NWSS Representative
Raunaq Singh	- Member at large
Marissa Smith	- NWSS Representative
Ian Zhou	- Connaught Heights Elementary School

#### **VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Yasmeen Alghreibawi	- NWSS Representative
Tyller Cordoviz	- NWSS Representative
Simran Jagpal	- NWSS Representative
Elena Kuzma	- NWSS Representative
Amy Frost	- NWSS Representative
Giselle Whittaker	- NWSS Representative

#### **NON VOTING ADVISORS PRESENT:**

Patrick Johnstone	- City Council
Heather Lynch	- District Parent Advisory Committee

#### **NON VOTING ADVISORS REGRETS**

Karon Trenaman	- ICBC Representative
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#### **GUESTS:**

Sebastian Merz	- SFU Centre for Dialogue
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#### **STAFF:**

Ryan Weber	- Youth Services Coordinator
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m.

## **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of March 31, 2016**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the March 31, 2016 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **3.1 Ice Breaker**

Ryan Weber, Youth Services Coordinator, provided the following 'ice breaker' question to the Committee:

“What City of New Westminster event or community event is your favourite?”

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The Food Truck Festival;
- Hyack Festival;
- May Days;
- Momentum Youth Arts Festival;
- Pride;
- Sapperton Days;
- Boys All Nighter Event at the Youth Centre;
- New West Band Fest; and,
- Easter in the Park.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 New Westminster's Public Engagement Plan**

Councilor Patrick Johnstone, Council Representative, provided background information regarding the role and initiative of the Public Engagement Task Force.

Sebastian Merz, SFU Centre for Dialogue, provided information regarding the public engagement plan for New Westminster. Mr. Merz reported that in order to develop this plan, input would be required from the Committee.

Mr. Merz asked for Committee members to provide a brief introduction, and answer the following question: Why did you join the Youth Advisory Committee and what does community engagement mean to you?

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Being a member of a Committee provides an opportunity to learn how the City works;
- Information sharing between the City and youth members is an important way to promote change in the future;
- Community engagement should aim to make the community and society better;
- Engagement is a good way to promote brainstorming and information sharing; and,
- Community engagement is effective when interacting with members of the community in an environment in which they are comfortable.

Mr. Merz summarized an on-table handout regarding the draft principles that the Public Engagement Task Force had established. The Committee was requested to utilize the list of principles to evaluate an event that either succeeded or did not succeed at addressing the chosen principles.

Following discussion within their groups, the Committee provided the following examples:

- The May Day event could have been more inclusive and accessible to all members of New Westminster. Currently, it was suggested that the event is aimed more towards elementary students and their parents;
- The Youth Advisory Committee offers opportunities for informed discussion;
- The New Westminster event to welcome Syrian Refugees focused on inclusion and accessibility. Representatives informed the community with

background information and offered suggestions to make refugees feel more at home in New Westminster;

- The Pride Parade is an event that works to promote respect for the LGBT community; and,
- The New Westminster police department has an iPhone/android app that distributes information to residents in the community. This information provides residents of New Westminster the ability to have informed discussions on relevant issues within the City.

Mr. Merz concluded his session by enquiring how the City could make events and processes more accessible to residents in New Westminster.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following suggestions:

- Offering a translator or information package in other languages at City meetings or public events could promote multicultural engagement;
- Targeting a relevant demographic on issues, and ensuring that the engagement method for that demographic is appropriate could be considered;
- Utilizing a more interactive approach on engagement could be beneficial;
- Providing outcomes to City discussions and open houses in an easily accessible manner could help residents understand how their opinions contribute to Council's decisions;
- Creating a mobile app similar to the app designed by the New Westminster Police department was suggested;
- Youth lead discussion could act as a valuable way to promote engagement in younger generations;
- Providing and maintaining open dialogue; and,
- Encouraging City Committees to reach out to high school Committees regarding matters that could be important to youth (i.e. the environment).

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 Council Representative Report**

Councillor Patrick Johnstone, Council representative, reported the following information:

- Council has been working on Noise Variance Bylaws for the City;
- Development in New Westminster has been busy, with a large number of applications for building permits being received;
- The Queen's Park Heritage Committee has requested Council consider Heritage Preservation Bylaws in an attempt to preserve heritage homes in the

- Queen's Park area. Council anticipates that this matter could lead to political conversations and community outreach in the coming months;
- The Pattullo bridge replacement project would begin at the end of the month. Council plans to monitor traffic patterns to see how this closure affects the City;
  - The Food Truck Policy is being finalized, with the hope that food trucks be operational by summer, 2016. Before implementing the policy Council wants to ensure that that local businesses are not affected;
  - New Westminster would be hosting the Piknic Électronik in August in Pier Park. The event would be a two day festival of live electronic music; and,
  - New Westminster implemented a Tree Bylaw, which aims to plant ten thousand new trees in the ground in the next ten years, and reduce the number of trees being cut down in the City.

With regard to the Heritage Preservation Bylaws, the Committee noted that heritage in the City is important; however, some older homes do require replacement. Enquiries were made regarding the possible effects that could arise from the City imposing this bylaw on home owners.

## **6.2 ICBC Representative Report**

As Ms. Trenaman was not in attendance, this item was tabled until the next meeting.

## **6.3 District Parent Advisory Committee Report**

Heather Lynch, District Parent Advisory Committee, reported that the forum for Mental Health would be held on May 6, 2016.

## **6.4 Youth Coordinator's Report**

Ryan Weber, Youth Coordinator, reported the following information:

- Council had passed the name for the Youth Centre at the April 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The next steps for the project would be to finalize the sign design and location;
- Youth week would run May 1-7, 2016. Highlights from the week would include the Youth Awards, held on the evening of May 4<sup>th</sup>, a Teachers and Police versus Students basketball game during lunch hour on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, and a spark event Talent Show in Queensborough on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and,
- Gender free washroom signs would be implemented in the Youth Centre. The City is currently evaluating their policy with regard to how this could be implemented in other areas.

The Committee expressed their support on the implementation of gender natural washrooms in the Youth Centre.

## **6.5 Member Reports**

Yolanda Calderon, Co-Chair, reported that she had recently returned from a trip to El Salvador to provide toys and clothing donations to the Children's Hospital.

Raunaq Singh, Member at Large, enquired on the plans for the Canada Games pool.

Councillor Patrick Johnstone, Council Representative, reported that minor repairs would take place in order to keep the pool operational for the next five years. During this period of time, the City would seek public engagement regarding the pool, utilize funding opportunities and then begin the construction of a new facility.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall**

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Certified Correct,

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**Yolanda Calderon**  
**Co-Chair**

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**Debbie Johnstone**  
**Committee Clerk**