

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Chamber Meeting Room, City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
Harbir Batra	- Community Member
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Suk Dya (Lucy) Kim	- Community Member
Maria Marcu	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Liyang Ning	- Community Member
Maryam Salmani	- Community Member
Lynn Radbourne	- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Claudia Freire	- Housing and Social Planner
John Stark	- Acting Manager of Planning
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following item be added to the Agenda:

*5.3 Canada Day and Multicultural Festival Recap; and,
THAT the October 10, 2017 agenda be approved as amended.*

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 28, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of June 28, 2017 be adopted.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Chinese Benevolent Association Park Design Session Recap

Mr. John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, provided a summary of the status of the Chinese Benevolent Association Park, which Council endorsed to be built at 824 Agnes Street, on a site that was gifted to the City, and is currently occupied by a temporary dog off-leash enclosure.

Mr. Stark discussed the past and future steps in the park's development process:

- Visioning sessions have occurred, including with the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee and three Chinese associations (Canadians for Reconciliation Society, the Chinese Benevolent Association and the New Westminster Chinese Society);
- The visioning session results were provided to the Downtown Resident's Association, and currently, the visioning session results are being considered by the proponents of a proposed high-rise development adjacent to the park's location, who have agreed to provide funding to develop the park, in exchange for a density bonus;
- The visioning session results included the following recommendations:
 - Themes of commemoration, celebration, and story-telling, with the aim of including wider universal issues of discrimination and reconciliation within the conversation;
 - Activities within the park which are informational, inter-generational, and interactive;
 - The park should avoid mimicking a classical Chinese garden, and be more authentic in its use – i.e. a community garden, a meeting place;
 - The use of gates at the entrance(s), which are classical Chinese features and also provide a practical application;
 - Bamboo and other authentic plantings could be incorporated;
 - A water feature could be incorporated;
 - Accessibility aspects are important, as the park space has a steep slope;
 - Incorporation of a staircase could be considered to mimic the original Chinese Benevolent Association building, which had a staircase and a veranda;
- The proponents of the development have proposed an amenity space adjacent to, and opening onto, the park, in which case indoor activities would be possible, such as a community kitchen, an art gallery highlighting cultural and ethnic artists, and provision of event space. The amenity centre would include an elevator to help with the slope of the site and decrease the need for ramping; and,
- The next steps in the process are for landscape architects to come up with concepts and to go out to the community for feedback. The concepts will also be presented to the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee for feedback.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark provided the following information:

- Safety and security in the park would be managed as an aspect of the design;
- The City would own and maintain the park, however the amenity space would be built and maintained by the private developer as part of the proposed development; and,
- Negotiations are still ongoing in terms of the bonus density to be provided in exchange for building the park.

Committee members offered the following comments in response to the report:

- A children's playground would be beneficial in the park;
- As the space is small and there are buildings on all sides, a wall mural could be incorporated into the design; and,
- The elevator will be beneficial, however it would only be available during the time the amenity space is open.

4.2 Your New West: Facilitating Connections for Newcomers

Ms. Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, announced that the City had received a Newcomers Grant in the amount of \$4,800. The grant will be used to facilitate a newcomers' event, aimed at people who have arrived to New Westminster within the last three years and who may have limited information about the services and amenities available to them in the City.

The event, which would take place in February or March 2018, would aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- Facilitate learning about the City and how to get involved in community life;
- Provide an opportunity for attendees to connect with each other, with the City, and with community-based organizations; and,
- Provide an engaging event for approximately 200 participants and 25-30 exhibitors.

The committee provided their feedback and ideas on the following areas:

- Communicating the event – ideas on how to reach out and get broad representation:
 - WIN Council;
 - Settlement Workers in the Schools;
 - Fraser Works Co-op;
 - Local sports teams;
 - KidSport;
 - Police/Fire Services;
 - Faith-based organizations;
 - Post flyers in City buildings;
 - Social media;
- Events/games/activities that are participatory in nature:
 - Turban tying, henna tattoos;

- Interactive experiences, for example the “Trash your prejudices” activity, which involves writing down and “trashing” prejudices that are heard, felt or experienced;
- Involve sports teams and have sports activities – perhaps an opportunity to introduce Canadian sports (eg. hockey, lacrosse) to the attendees;
- Location:
 - It would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the Anvil Centre, along with the Museum and New Media Gallery, as it would provide the attendees with new and interesting features to explore;
 - Century House may be a better location due to its proximity to Brow of the Hill area; and,
 - Perhaps an opportunity to work with TransLink for transit passes.

Ms. Freire advised that the next steps in the process will be to set up a working group, and to arrange meeting dates to set the program and devise strategies for building awareness of the event.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 City’s Social Equity Policy Draft Survey

Ms. Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, reviewed the City’s plans to establish a Social Equity Policy, with its primary goal to reduce barriers and discrimination. As part of drafting the policy, the City intends to collect data via a survey in order to identify what is working and what gaps there are. Before distribution, the survey will be assessed for a suitable literacy level and then put before a test group. It would also be translated into the top three languages in the City.

Ms. Freire requested that the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee review the draft survey and provide their feedback on the content. The Committee provided the following comments:

- City Facilities, Question 2: It was suggested to use the word “difficulties” in place of “barriers”;
- City Information and Public Engagement, Question 8: It was suggested to add “Age” as a barrier type;
- There may be language, cultural or religious barriers for responding to the survey, and it may be worthwhile conducting outreach via focused group discussions to get information from groups who may want to provide feedback, but who may not feel comfortable filling out the survey;
- Certain groups may respond better to a discussion than a survey and results would be measured by the quality of information gathered, rather than the quantity of surveys gathered; and,
- Perhaps a combination of both qualitative discussions and survey completion could be used to ensure that the required levels of engagement are achieved.

5.2 Previously Proposed Welcome and Integration Centre

Mr. John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, updated the committee on the Neighbourhood Learning Centre Program, which was a framework developed at the time the construction of the new schools was announced, whereby a space for designated community use was to be built into the new schools. At Qayqayt, 11% of the building was designated to this use, and at Fraser River Middle School, 7% of the building was designated.

Mr. Stark discussed the construction of the new Secondary School and the proposed uses for the Neighbourhood Learning Centre in the new building, which were intended to be a new Massey Theatre; a UBC Counselling Centre; and a Welcome and Integration Centre.

Mr. Stark further advised the Committee that a document would be going to Council to allow staff the ability to reach out to the Ministry of Education to follow up on the importance of this designated space, as it will be a valuable space for settlement groups to gather. The intent is that Council will subsequently meet with the School Board in order to discuss the matter of space allocation in NWSS further.

5.3 Canada Day and Multicultural Festival Recap

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr invited the committee to comment on their experiences of the City's Canada Day celebrations and the Multicultural Festival, which occurred on July 1, 2017.

Committee members offered the following comments:

- Committee members enjoyed the multicultural aspects of the Canada Day celebrations;
- There were many vendors at the Multicultural Festival which was disheartening to see;
- The Filipino Festival Society was very helpful but seemed to dominate the Festival; and,
- In the past, the Multicultural Festival used to be very well run, and a tent and table were given in exchange for performing;

The Committee further discussed whether it would work to combine the two events into one large event, which may offset costs of both events. It was noted that discussion would need to be started soon on the intentions of the Multicultural Festival so that funding and plans could be put in place. Another option discussed was to change the date of the Multicultural Festival so that it does not conflict with Canada Day, and the fireworks.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

November 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR CHUCK PUCHMAYR
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK