

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chinu Das	- Chair, City Council Member
Mary Campbell	- Community Member
Mike Coca	- Community Member
Halim Habibi	- Community Member, Alternate Chair
Karen Klein	- SD40 Representative
Jessica Roca-Muncaster	- Community Member
Elaine Su	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Harbir Batra	- Community Member
Kelsi Wall	- Community Member

GUESTS

Alexandra Kenyon	- HCMA Architecture + Design
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STAFF PRESENT:

Claudia Freire	- Housing / Social Planner
Paul Hyland	- New Westminister Police Department
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of April 17, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the April 17, 2019 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be adopted with following amendments:

- *Page 5, first bullet: Change the wording to indicate that the School District's policy was developed over a three school year period; and,*
- *Page 5, third bullet: Change the word difficult to confusing.*

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre

Alexandra Kenyon, HCMA, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the process and changes that had been made to the design of the New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre (NWACC) in response to the most recent round of community engagement, which focused on the issue of privacy swims, including the following information:

- Several City committees had been consulted, and a Privacy Swim Advisory Panel had been established, which included members of the LGBTQ community and the Muslim Women's group;
- Feedback heard from the advisory panel included:
 - The leisure pool would be preferable for privacy swims because of temperature;
 - Amenities such as the hot tub, sauna and fitness would be desirable;
- There would be several considerations and constraints to privacy swims given that the leisure pool is proposed to be connected to outdoor spaces;
- Outcomes developed by the Privacy Swim Advisory Panel and supported by NWACC advisory panel and Tri-City Muslim committee were as follows:
 - Use of the leisure pool facility for privacy swims would be preferable as long as the privacy created was secure and the time was during operational hours;
 - Design changes would be made to screening and glazing to accommodate privacy swims; and,
- Proposed screening requirements in response to the privacy swim considerations.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Kenyon provided the following information:

- Budget considerations of the accommodation of privacy swims would become clearer once the new design drawings are available;
- The inclusion of children within the women-only swim was part of the conversation, but an age limit was not discussed;
- The privacy mechanism is still being considered; however, two options are under consideration:
 - Glazing on the outside doors, which would be electro-chromic glass, and shut out all visibility;
 - Rolling blinds on the doors, with protection on the sides to prevent manipulation;
- The leisure pool is to contain three 25 metre lanes which would be appropriate for laps and provide space for therapeutic uses; and,
- The issue of providing separate times for each privacy-seeking community is still to be resolved.

The Committee noted appreciation for the City's consideration of privacy swims and noted that it is important to be inclusive and provide all residents with an equal opportunity to swim, or learn to swim.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee recommend that Council endorse the design principles, as presented at the June 11, 2019 meeting, regarding privacy swims for the New West Aquatics & Community Centre.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Christchurch, New Zealand, Terrorist Attack

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, informed Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) members that the recommendation made at the April 17, 2019, committee meeting on the subject of the Christchurch, New Zealand terrorist attacks had been approved by Council on May 27, 2019, and the letters were sent out on June 11, 2019.

4.2 Sanctuary City Designation

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Sanctuary City Policy, including the following information:

- A review of the staff work plan, which is currently at the policy development stage, incorporating input from MAC and WINS;

- Next steps to target the end of this year/early next year for endorsement from Council;
- A review of the emerging threads from case study research of six Canadian municipalities, including the key policies, actions and collaborations with Police.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Freire and Councillor Das provided the following information:

- In reference to the case studies, where it says non-alignment with the City policy, this likely means that there may have been a request for cooperation; however, Police have endorsed a separate policy;
- The Police force would look to formalize guidelines rather than policy as they allow for more flexibility; and,
- It is unlikely that current Police behaviour would change, in that Police would not be asking victims of crime about their immigration status; however, if an arrest is made and an immigration warrant exists, then the police have a duty to act.

The Committee noted that the biggest challenge would likely be in carefully managing the messaging and public communication on this policy, and ensuring that those who are undocumented continue to feel safe to access City services and call the Police without fear.

Ms. Freire asked the Committee for feedback on directives for policy and implementation of the Sanctuary City Policy, and conducted a brainstorming session with the Committee members, resulting in the following ideas:

Policy Directives: What should the policy say?

- It makes sense to develop the policy, and its terminology, from the angle of “access to City services”;
- Be clear that this is a City policy, and if residents are requesting similar services from other levels of government, the same policy may not be in place;
- Be clear in the language and definition of “Sanctuary”, as there are different connotations of the term, which may be misconstrued and confusing;
- It would be important for the City to communicate the policy to the businesses and institutions within the City;
- There may be a need for advocacy between the City and other local and Provincial services and organizations, i.e. Fraser Health, Food Bank, ICBC, WorkSafe BC, etc.;
- The policy should demonstrate the City’s values and objectives of being a compassionate City;

Implementation: How should the policy be communicated?

- Accessible, understandable, and translated into multiple languages;
- Distributed widely through public education and communications;
- Provide clarity about what resources would be available and which jurisdictions take care of services, i.e. City versus Provincial;
- Update of all resources, including the Newcomer’s Guide, and any other applicable City literature;
- Staff and Volunteer training to include:
 - Guidelines and policy;
 - What to do if immigration status is disclosed?
 - What are staff’s responsibilities?
 - HR training: needs to be ongoing and part of onboarding, and be part of the culture of the City; and,
 - Training aspects to include: anti-racism, harassment, trauma-informed; Cultural sensitivity.

Ms. Freire noted that next steps include policy development and community engagement, including with people with lived and living experience.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Topics of Interest to the MAC

Councillor Das asked the Committee members to provide their thoughts on topics of interest for the committee to explore, resulting in the following feedback:

- The impacts of a single-use plastic ban on the Chinese community;
- Climate crisis-related policies and the impacts on immigrant, racialized and marginalized communities;
- Community input on green initiatives and environmental adaptations;
- Welcome Centre and Sanctuary City Policy; and,
- Discussion about the new grant process.

5.2 New Westminster Multicultural Festival

Councillor Das discussed the Multicultural Festival which takes place on Canada Day, at Pier Park. She noted that it would be appropriate for the MAC to provide input into the festival, along with other groups, such as the Arts Council, and WINS group.

Councillor Das suggested that the Committee members could attend this year’s festival and be prepared to discuss it at a future meeting.

In response to a question from the Committee, Councillor Das noted that cultural groups in the City often put on their own festivals; however, this is the only City-run festival, which runs in conjunction with the Canada Day festivities at Queen's Park, and the fireworks put on by the Hyack Festival Association.

Committee members noted the following comments:

- It would be important to review the purpose and definition of the festival, as multicultural can mean different things, i.e. religion, country, or language;
- Ensuring representation from many communities would be important, as some communities can often be over-represented; however, this can also be because of lack of personnel, finances, organization, or communication reach;
- It may be important to have a conversation about the optics and principles of the City asking various groups to provide hours of free entertainment;
- Issues to discuss with the relevant groups who are currently involved, or wish to be involved, with the festival could include:
 - Timing and duration;
 - Entertainment and schedule;
 - Budget;
 - Location;
 - Logistics; and,
 - Separation of Canada Day and Multiculturalism Festival.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR CHINU DAS
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK