

Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force

MINUTES

Monday, March 7, 2022

**Meeting held electronically and in Committee Room 2
City Hall**

PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa Chair*
Councillor Chinu Das*
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr*

STAFF MEMBERS:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer*
Ms. Corrinne Garrett	Senior Manager Recreation Facilities and Programs*
Mr. Chris Koth	Manager of Programs and Community Development*
Mr. Robert McCullough	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services*
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement*
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Manager, Intergovernmental and Community Relations*
Ms. Christina Coolidge	Indigenous Relations Advisor *
Mr. John Stark	Supervisor, Community Planning*

OTHER STAFF:

Ms. Jacque Killawee	City Clerk*
Ms. Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Nakagawa opened the meeting at 1:31 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made

invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

Councillor Nakagawa also acknowledged International Women's Day which would be celebrated tomorrow, March 8, 2022.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the March 7, 2022 Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force meeting be adopted with the addition of New Business items 5.1 – Introduction of Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor and 5.2 – Renaming Begbie Street and Begbie Square.

Carried.

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 February 14, 2022

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 14, 2022 Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force meeting be adopted.

Carried.

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

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Draft Committee Remuneration Policy

Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, reviewed the Draft Committee Remuneration Policy. Ms. Killawee shared that committee members questioned if paying people to sit on committees would change their reason for doing so. She advised that remuneration for committee members has big implications and that the estimate is based on the number of committee applications received by the City.

In response to questions from Task Force members, Ms. Killawee, Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor, and John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, provided the following comments:

- The amount of the Honoria was arrived at based on the Victoria Policy which appears to be a median amount for universities, etc.;

- Committee members expressed concern regarding the possible change in motivation for people to participate if money was offered as it may no longer make participation about wanting to be included in city processes and working for their community;
- In order for payments to not impact benefits such as Income Assistance, etc., many Indigenous communities provide gift certificates as an alternative to money;
- This Policy addresses remuneration for the ongoing input that is provided by those appointed by Council to advisory committees, task forces, and working groups whereas the Engagement Honoraria Policy presented at the last meeting speaks to participation in once-off engagement opportunities;
- The Policy would not affect the honoraria paid for blessings or acknowledgements as they have a set amount; and,
- The reasoning for the Policy must be communicated to committee members so they are aware of the City's intention to reach those who are normally excluded from providing input and to have more diverse voices on our advisory committees, task forces, and working groups in effort to break down barriers.

In discussion, members provided the following comments:

- As the numbers may require people having to file income tax, staff could seek the feedback of First Nations representatives to find out what they would like to see with respect to remuneration and revisit it at next year's budget;
- The starting number is big and we do not want it to impact department budgets;
- The Policy is exciting and clearly defines eligibility, etc. It is good as presented and may change the makeup of our committees overall;
- The section that states, "...people with privilege are not eligible for this" could be amended to say "people who do not fall into" and then add the categories; and,
- It may be beneficial to track the reasons that people want to serve on committees in order to determine if compensation is a main attractant as this may assist in tweaking the Policy.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion, and Engagement Task Force refers the draft Committee Remuneration Policy to Council for further consideration.

Carried.

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Introduction of Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, introduced Christina Coolidge, the City's new Indigenous Relations Advisor.

Ms. Coolidge shared a bit about herself including that she is from the Tseil-Waututh Nation, is Cree on her mother's side, and is also of Danish descent. Ms. Coolidge noted that she is a resident of New Westminster.

5.2 Renaming Begbie Street and Begbie Square

Councillor Puchmayr advised of his recent meeting with Chief Alphonse of the Tl'etinqox-t'in Government and Chief Troy Baptiste of the ?Esdilagh First Nation sharing that they were both pleased with the removal of the Judge Begbie statue and expressed interest in what stage the City was at with the renaming of Begbie Square and Begbie Street. Councillor Puchmayr asked where the City is on the timeline for the renamings, noting that he would like to see it complete prior to the end of this term.

In response to questions from Task Force members, Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, and Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor, provided the following comments;

- Renaming Begbie Square and Begbie Street is a priority and it is anticipated that work will be done in the next couple of months to facilitate city-wide conversations on these and other related work;
- The process to address the renaming of the Street and Square could be hastened and will include input from various First Nations groups; and,
- Based on feedback from the Task Force, the renaming of Begbie Square will be addressed first, acknowledging that it is paramount to have engagement with local First Nations and that this will become a best practices test case. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

In discussion, members provided the following comments:

- Given the sensitive nature, the renaming, especially of Begbie Street, should be prioritized and completed faster than other ones;
- There is value to having a naming policy implemented during this term and to use the Task Force to discuss the principles of the renaming process and set out best practices for the policy while keeping in mind that even if the policy prioritizes the renaming of the Begbie locations, the principles must remain consistent;
- The naming policy has not been discussed for a while and there has been no consensus as to how the City moves forward on how things are named, how this work fits in with the truth and reconciliation process, nor how the public consultation aspect will be done;
- A fundamental question to be addressed is who is invited to the table to provide input with respect to names;
- The desire to move quickly to rename Begbie Street and Begbie Square is understandable; however, there are important aspects to the naming process that need to be resolved first such as who is permitted to make decisions on this land, a clear process to address other problematic place names, what languages are recognized, and how we can move with forward with urgency and intentionality;
- There is not a lot of evidence in the community of the contemplation that staff and Council have given to these issues. The process needs to be transparent so that the community is aware of the work being done;
- The renaming of Begbie Square, which many not have a negative impact with the community, could be addressed first as a small overture prior to the next election with Begbie Street addressed later;
- The new names would have to be embraced by other First Nations;
- Council could facilitate a council-to-council meeting with the First Nations to discuss the naming process and help strengthen relationships; and,
- It would be beneficial for the City to formalize this process to assure the community with what is being done and dialogue with the First Nations will help to do that.

6. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 2:15 p.m.

7. **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- April 11
- May 13
- June 20
- July 15
- December 2

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

CHAIR

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook

COMMITTEE CLERK