



REGULAR MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON RECONCILIATION, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Meeting Held Electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and
Order of the Public Health Officer – *Gatherings and Events February 5, 2021*

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa, Chair
Councillor Chinu Das
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr

STAFF:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	- Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jacque Killawee	- City Clerk
Ms. Emilie Adin	- Director of Development Services
Mr. Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation and Facilities
Mr. Chris Koth	- Manager of Programs and Community Development, New Westminister Public Library
Mr. Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Ms. Jennifer Miller	- Manager of Public Engagement
Ms. Diana McDaniel	- Inspector, New Westminister Police Department
Mr. John Stark	- Supervisor of Community Planning
Ms. Denise Tambellini	- Manager of Intergovernmental and Community Relations
Ms. Nicole Ludwig	- Assistant City Clerk

OTHER STAFF:

Ms. Christine Cho - Manager, Human Resources

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Presentation: Creation of the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion, and Engagement Advisory Committee: Combining the Multiculturalism, Restorative Justice, Seniors and Youth Advisory Committees: Staff Update**
 - a. Minutes Extract: January 11, 2021 meeting
 - b. Presentation: Social Inclusion, Engagement, and Reconciliation Advisory Committee Proposals for Discussion – January 11, 2021, meeting

Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, provided a presentation reviewing the discussion from the January 11, 2021, meeting, and requested additional direction from the Task Force. Members provided comments on the following:

Eliminating Tokenism

- There is a need to make sure that in considering committee membership, the City is not just ticking boxes;
- Members need to be aware and accepting of the equity of voices around the table;
- Agreement with the desire to avoid tokenism;
- Suggestions for to include a training component for members that includes information on Committee Structure, advocacy, public speaking, and decisions are made;
- There is a need for outreach to newcomers to make them feel included, especially in Committee leadership, and make people feel comfortable earlier;
- Tokenism is a real thing and is more than a definition; what it feels like and looks like in practice is important and has a relationship to how meetings are conducted.

Continuation of the Restorative Justice Committee

- The focus and membership of the RJC are different from other Council Advisory Committees;

- The Committee has made real and substantive changes to the Aboriginal Court and has become very technical and knowledgeable about the Court;
- Requested Council review the decision to combine the Restorative Justice Committee with other committees; and,
- Two of the three Councillors appointed to the Task Force supported the keeping the Restorative Justice Committee as a separate Committee.

Increasing Diversity

- The task force should explain how diversity is going to become part of the framework for Committees, and work to get committees to be reflective of the larger community;
- There may be a better way to capture the idea of "primary language spoken at home" to get to a more accurate portrayal of language use in the community;
- Diverse applicants might feel alienated once on a committee because work of the committee might be different than what they expected;
- Staff who provide recommendations for membership may be focused on functionality of the Committee;
- Separation of different regions of Europeans may skew how we view diversity; and,
- A balance may be achieved by the fact that people are applying to the committees that they want to be on.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Presentation: Police Reform Advocacy

- a. Minutes Extract: Regular Council meeting, February 1, 2021

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a presentation on the draft response to the Province's Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act, and requested feedback from the Task Force.

Members provided feedback on the following items:

Engagement

- There is a need to understand the Special Committee's terms of reference before providing information on engagement;
- Engagement is the most sensitive and loaded area to discuss, from deciding who will conduct the engagement to how to proceed without revictimizing people.
- There is a need to have the most impacted involved and to make sure the Province delivers on engagement; and,
- The City's role should be that of facilitator, rather than engager, and offering support and training to people who are engaged so they know what to expect in the sessions led by the Province;
- Police and cities are taking on a more responsibility since more senior levels of government have been stepping back; they are not being resourced by other levels of government for these additional responsibilities;
- Suggested working with the Community Action Network, the Overdose Community Action Team peers, and Spirit of the Children, who have relationships with the people most often affected by policing.

Note: the terms of reference and other documents related to the Special Committee's work can be accessed through the following website: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/committees/41stParliament-5thSession-rpa>.

Joint Advocacy

- Issues may be better aligned with Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) government rather than the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), due to more specific regional issues;
- Need to see if there can be alignment between different police forces;
- There is a need to find out and understand the negative experiences of overpolicing, which disproportionately affect Black and Indigenous people, as well as people with mental illness, and people who are homeless;
- Police reform requires both Local and Provincial reforms; internally, the City needs to look at hiring, training, and investigative practices.

Areas Requiring Staff Research

- Explaining how the download of responsibilities affected local governments, including: cutbacks over the years and the deinstitutionalization of people in mental health facilities put into communities without supports;
- Look broadly at the effects to include ripple effects;
- There is an opportunity for the City to take a critical look at how the care of the most vulnerable is taking place; and
- Would like to move forward as fast as possible on this.

Summary of Action	Bring forward a report on a submission to the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act for Council approval.
Who is responsible	Chief Administrative Officer
When	At a Council meeting as soon as possible (March 2021)

3. International Women's Day Event

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that the Task Force's next meeting is on the same day as International Women's Day and suggested a virtual town hall to highlight work being done on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Framework.

Christine Cho, Manager, Human Resources, advised that LevelUp has agreed to provide a presentation.

In discussion, members expressed support for the event, and noted that there is a need to keep intersectionality front and centre, to ensure the diversity of women and everything they represent is acknowledged and celebrated.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

3. MOTION:

THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter, members of the public be excluded from the Closed Meeting of the Task Force on Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement immediately following the Regular Meeting on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items to

be considered relate to matters listed under Section 90(2)(b), of the Community Charter:

(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Task Force on Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement will occur on:

Date:	March 8, 2021
Time:	1:00 p.m.
Location:	TBD

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Original Signed

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Chair

Original Signed

Nicole Ludwig
Assistant City Clerk