



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

November 23, 2020

Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Jonathan Cote, Chair
Councillor Chinu Das
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr (Alternate)

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

Dr. Pamela Stern	- Simon Fraser University
Maddy Prevost	- Simon Fraser University

All present attended the meeting electronically.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
Urgent/time sensitive matters only

1. None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. **MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the minutes of the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force meeting of September 21, 2020, be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

WORKSHOP

3. **Decolonizing City Monuments and Landmarks – City Asset Naming**

Rob McCullough provided a brief presentation on the project to date, and a review of Council motions, and existing policies related to street and place naming, and introduced Dr. Pamela Stern, and Maddy Prevost, both from Simon Fraser University.

The Task Force broke out into small groups to discuss the following questions.

- In a couple of sentences, could you share How City naming practices apply to your work?
- Please share one or two examples of what you hear from the public about city naming practices?
- What are the strengths of the current naming practices?
- Where can the current naming practices be improved?
- Please provide any additional thoughts you may have on this topic.

Following the breakout groups, the Committee returned together at 9:45 a.m. and shared the following thoughts and ideas:

- Street and place names should reflect the value of the amenity's purpose;
- Streets should be built for wayfinding;
- There are currently very few streets that require names; most of them are in Queensborough;
- Feed the name list into the development process so private developers can use them;
- Placemaking is important and holds value; this is a very diverse perspective from the Indigenous community;

- Policies and process both need to be considered to ensure foundational values are a key part of the process;
- The list of names attached to the current policy needs to be analyzed with a different lens in order to ensure diversity;
- The current Parks policy in terms of naming towards place and function alleviates some of the issues around naming assets for people, but a focus on naming thing in other ways is important;
- The current policy does not give Council the ability to deal appropriately with naming requests and naming assets gets bogged down in a heavily bureaucratic process;
- There is need for other, diverse people and communities to be involved from the outset;
- Names could be reflective of an ideology and value system that people hold dear (i.e New Delhi’s Shantipath which means “Road to Peace”. This methodology show us what we want to illustrate;
- The name list needs a complete rethink;
- There are issues with the diversity of the group selecting names as per the policy directions;
- There needs to be other conversations about this beyond the current meeting;
- We need to manage community expectations associated naming; and
- Our population in 40% immigrant and they are not reflected in these processes.

NEW BUSINESS

Reconciliation

4. Updates:

a. Research on City Actions Relative to Indigenous People

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, provided an interim report on historic actions Council has taken relative to indigenous peoples. An analysis of emergent themes, narratives and patterns of action was provided .

In discussion, Task force members and staff noted the following:

- It is difficult to even read about past decisions;
- Bold actions are needed along with explanations so that people understand why changes are being made; and,

- There are many connections to the Chinese reconciliation and apology process, which was very positive despite uncovering negative parts of the City's history.

In response to comments and questions, Mr. McCullough provided the following information:

- If the City wants to offer an apology this work will come with time as the city needs to better understand more about the nations with ties to the land.
- The City needs to take responsibility for past actions and share them as relationships with Indigenous communities are built; and,
- As research progresses, some bylaws may need to be appealed or amended; this also needs to be communicated out publicly.

b. Relationship Building Process and Communications with Neighbouring Nations

Mr. McCullough advised that staff and the Mayor are reaching out to neighbouring nations with an aim to reinvigorate meetings at the executive level, with a staff member attending the meetings to document the meeting.

In discussion, Task Force members and staff noted the following:

- Outcomes should be shared as they come and come in a variety of media (e.g. written, verbal, video); and,
- More Council-to-Council meetings would be helpful in building relationships.

5. Review of City Statements and Policies

a. Draft City Policy Statement on Reconciliation

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, provided a presentation on the intent of the proposed City Policy Statement on Reconciliation, noting it frames the City's governmental activities, plans and intentions relating to Reconciliation work, while the mechanism of work will be identified within the City's Reconciliation Framework.

Committee members noted this is a good start, and that they would like to see the addition of a statement on power to bullet four: "acknowledge

and respect Indigenous people as distinct, present, and self-determining".

Action Items:

Summary of Action	Add a statement on power to the proposed City Policy statement on Reconciliation and bring to Council.
Who is responsible	Rob McCullough
When	At a Council meeting in 2021.

Social Inclusion

6. Updates:

a. Community Action Network Training Program

John Stark, Supervisor of Community Planning, provided an overview of the Community Action Network (CAN) Leadership and Capacity Building Initiative, including next steps, noting:

- there are seven training sessions and 10 participants;
- participants will learn about committee structure and decision-making, advocacy, and public speaking, among other topics.
- Six of the seven sessions have been held and it looks as if eight of the 10 participants will graduate.
- Staff will bring a report to Council in January 2020, which will summarize the results of the initiative; and recommend remuneration for those with lived and living experience given that they are subject matter experts and appointments on advisory committees and other civic bodies to ensure that they are more representative of the diversity of the community.

b. Hey Neighbour Collective

Mr. Stark provided an update on the Hey Neighbour Collective and an update on the involvement of Ross Tower, with City staff connecting with tenants, and distributing information related to COVID-19, food supports, financial assistance, government benefits, and tenant resources. He noted that this initiative is intended to increase social connectedness and interaction in existing multi-family buildings, through programming activities, and in new buildings, through design considerations. Mr. Stark also noted that there will be a resilience component, in which tenants will be involved in emergency management preparedness.

c. Welcome Centre

Mr. Stark provided an update on the Welcome Centre, which will comprise 2,500 square feet; offer information, programming and referral services; and be located at the redeveloped New Westminster Secondary School. He requested Task Force feedback on providing funding.

In discussion, Task Force members noted the following:

- It may be better to work with organizations who have experience working with these kinds of programs rather than the City continually providing resources;
- The facility may be open prior to the full range of services being provided due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Funding should be considered as part of the budget discussions for this year while other forms of funding are subsequently investigated.

In response to questions and comments, Mr. Stark provided the following information:

- The Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) Advisory Committee will continue to function beyond the establishment of the Welcome Centre and the centre will provide programming to the larger community;
- The School District is envisaging a July startup for the Welcome Centre.

Engagement

7. COVID-19 Recovery Engagement Results Update, Discussion and Feedback

a. What We Heard

Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, provided a presentation on the COVID-19 Recovery Engagement Results, noting there have been no big gaps between what the City has been doing and public response.

In discussion, Task Force members noted:

- The information needs to feed into already-established processes, influence plans, and then circle back to the public;
- As work continues staff should ensure that any feedback is brought along as part of the context.

8. Demographic Questions for Engagement Participants

Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, presented the demographic questions currently in use for engagement participants and requested feedback on current approaches.

In discussion, Task Force members noted:

- The general approach is good, however if it is restricted to online only, certain parts of the population will be missed;
- It is a good idea to collect the information once, however it needs to be up to date;
- It may be worthwhile to collect the information every two or three years to ensure it is up to date;
- Broad categories of information are respectful, but may repress information that is useful to identify which groups are being missed; and,
- Include categories and questions related to people with disabilities and socio-economic status.

In response to comments and questions, Ms. Miller provided the following information:

- The new Be Heard New West online platform is an additional tool for engagement, and does not replace other ways of reaching out;
- Public engagement is participation by choice and therefore is not intended to be a representative sample, but can provide for a diversity of voices to be heard if used in addition to other forms of engagement.
- It is largely the expectation that the Be Heard account holder will update their information, and newsletters can be sent out with intermittent reminders to update; and,
- Initially, the main purpose of collecting demographic information is to understand who is missing from the dialogue.

NEXT MEETING

Date:	January 11, 2021
Time:	1:00 p.m.
Location:	TBD

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Original Signed

**COUNCILLOR NADINE NAKAGAWA
CHAIR**

Original Signed

**NICOLE LUDWIG
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK**