



## **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 27, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chamber, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ellelan Degife	- Member at large (Chair)
Hannah Block	- Member at large
Sadie DeCoste	- Member at large
Veronika Gukova	- Member at large
John Cao	- Member at large
Dana Radivojevic	- Member at large
Jelena Mitrovic	- Member at large
Tiger Xu	- Member at large
Lily Nikolova	- Member at large

#### **VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Brandon Lee	- Member at large
Hayden Goss	- Member at large
Caitlin Nault	- Member at large
Simar Saini	- Member at large
Tay Su-Jeong Kim	- Member at large
Valeria Nandayapa	- Member at large

#### **NON VOTING ADVISORS:**

Chuck Puchmayr	- City Council
Ashley Currie	- School District #40
Andrea Mears	- District Parent Advisory Committee
Karon Trenaman	- ICBC Representative

#### **GUESTS:**

Rhea Khan	- Inter-Regional At-Risk Youth Link
Carolyn Bauer	- Inter-Regional At-Risk Youth Link
Kevin McCluskey	- Inter-Regional At-Risk Youth Link

#### **STAFF:**

Lesley Cole	- Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
Sandon Fraser	- Youth Services Coordinator
Alison Worsfold	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

## 1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

### 4.1 Crosswalk on Eighth Avenue

## 2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 27, 2014 (On Table)

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee meeting held on February 27, 2014 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 3.0 PRESENTATIONS

### 3.1 Inter-Regional At-Risk Youth Link (IRAYL)

**Rhea Khan, Carolyn Bauer, and Kevin McCluskey, IRAYL Representatives,** provided the following information regarding the IRAYL program:

- IRAYL is a youth outreach program providing support and resources to youth who gather together around the SkyTrain stations in the Lower Mainland;
- The program is part of a cross-regional crime reduction initiative;
- Youth outreach workers identify and connect with youth to provide support and build relationships;
- Youth are provided with resources for services such as counselling, food, and other items;
- The IRAYL team is equipped with mobile devices that allows them to post their current location on social media sites;
- IRAYL provides presentations to schools, alternate schools and community centres regarding crime prevention and SkyTrain safety;
- IRAYL provides escorts for youth if they feel unsafe at a SkyTrain station;
- At-risk youth are determined by the IRAYL team through building connections with the youth and recognizing the frequency of which the youth are at the SkyTrain stations;
- Approximately 20 youth utilize the IRAYL service on a daily basis, which a high percentage of them being homeless;
- Most of the homeless youth who utilize the IRAYL service are not living with their parents due to mental health and addiction problems; and,
- The IRAYL program began in December 2008.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- It was questioned if there are any volunteer opportunities for youth with IRAYL;
- It was suggested that a sub-program be created for youth who utilize or have utilized the program in the past to provide insight and assistance for new at-risk youth;
- It was suggested that the program be extended to all bus routes in the lower mainland;
- Appreciation was expressed for IRAYL's fun and approachable online presence, specifically with respect to Facebook; and,
- It was suggested that IRAYL business cards be displayed on busses and at SkyTrain stops if possible.

**Andrea Mears, District Parent Advisory Committee**, advised that there are volunteer opportunities available for youth that are associated with the IRAYL program, and that Committee members should contact her if they are interested. Ms. Mears noted that IRAYL is unable to expand to bus routes at this time due to limited funding.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Crosswalk on Eighth Avenue**

**Ellelan Degife, Chair**, reported that at the February 18, 2014 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meeting, Committee members briefly discussed the possibility of requesting Council to implement a crosswalk in an area close to New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) on Eight Avenue between Eight Street and Sixth Street. At the meeting, Committee members advised that they would be interested in discussing the topic further at the March 27, 2014 YAC meeting.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee suggested the following:

- The addition of a crosswalk in the middle of Eighth Avenue could cause traffic congestion;
- A crosswalk could be installed without signal lighting;
- A crosswalk could help control afterschool traffic congestion; and,
- A School Zone speed limit should be established on the roads surrounding NWSS as well.

The Committee advised that there were some incidents where students jaywalking at the location on Eighth Avenue were hit by motorists. The Committee agreed that a crosswalk could therefore be beneficial for the safety of students and other pedestrians.

**Councillor Puchmayr, Council Liaison**, advised that Council's goal to make New Westminster a walkable city and that pedestrian safety is the priority when addressing the traffic issue. Councillor Puchmayr noted that Council's priority is to reduce the high volume amount of non-local traffic circulating throughout the city on a daily basis, as it affects the livability and safety of local residents. Councillor Puchmayr suggested that requesting a designated crossing area at the location is a reasonable request when taking safety into consideration.

**Karon Trenaman, ICBC Representative**, reported that Committee members are able to access ICBC's crash map at <http://www.icbc.com/crashmap-lm>, which displays crashes that have occurred in New Westminster within the past five years.

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council consider implementing a designated crossing area on Eighth Avenue in close proximity to the Massey Theatre street entrance (between Eighth Street and Sixth Street).*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items.

### **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

#### **6.1 Councillor's Report**

**Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, City Council**, reported the following:

- Current use of the Pattullo Bridge as "the free alternative" to the recently tolled Port Mann Bridge is significantly affecting the livability of New Westminster;
- The City is calling for a tolled four-lane bridge to replace the Pattullo Bridge, with the goal of alleviating the traffic issue;
- It was suggested that un-tolled six-lane bridge, as proposed by Translink, would contribute to the traffic issue; and,
- City Council has taken action by providing presentations to Metro Vancouver municipalities with the goal of gaining support for a tolled four-lane bridge.

#### **6.2 School Board Trustee**

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

### 6.3 Community School Coordinator's Report

**Ashley Currie, Community School Coordinator**, reported the following:

- Students at Byrne Creek Secondary School are organizing a youth led mental health awareness summit on May 8, 2014 called 'Mental Wellness Be Aware';
- New Westminster Secondary School students will be helping Byrne Creek Secondary School organize and run the summit;
- There will be three sessions at the event:
  - Youth Panel;
  - Passion Project;
  - How to Help: A Youth Perspective on Bullying;
- The main session at the summit will be a documentary called 'ArtQuake,' which is a non-profit organization that supports youth suffering from mental health; and,
- Committee members were asked to contact Ms. Currie if they are interested in volunteering for the event.

### 6.4 DPAC Coordinator Report

**Andrea Mears, District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)**, reported the following:

- DPAC and School District #40 are writing a special education guide book; and,
- DPAC is investigating traffic and how it affects students walking to and from school.

### 6.5 ICBC Representative Report

**Karon Trenaman, ICBC representative**, reported the following:

- ICBC Road Sense Speaker, Kevin Brooks, will provide a presentation at New Westminster Secondary School on May 20, 2014;
- Ms. Trenaman read out a letter from a student who attended a Road Sense presentation, and how it positively changed her life; and,
- ICBC allocates a high amount of resources into crash prevention, as car crashes are the number one killer for people age 19-25.

### 6.6 Youth Coordinator's Report

**Sandon Fraser, Youth Coordinator**, reported that Vali Marling, General Manager of the Anvil Centre, will provide a presentation at the April 24, 2014 Youth Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Fraser reminded Committee members that New Westminster Youth Award nominations are available online at [www.newwestyouth.ca](http://www.newwestyouth.ca).

## 6.7 Member Reports

**Sadie DeCoste** reported the following:

- Ms. DeCoste travelled to Cuba during spring break with the New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) music department;
- The music department partook in a musical exchange with other groups in Cuba;
- Ms. DeCoste is a member of Renew Crew, which is a group of students from NWSS and elementary school kids who complete garden projects utilizing recycled materials throughout the community;
- The first meeting for Renew Crew is on March 27, 2014;
- Renew Crew is funded through a grant from the United Way and the Kids New Westminister Committee; and,
- Ms. DeCoste suggested that Committee members vote for New Westminister in the BC Green Games contest at [www.bcgreengames.ca](http://www.bcgreengames.ca).

**Tiger Xu** reported the following:

- Mr. Xu travelled to Cuba during spring break with the New Westminister Secondary School (NWSS) music department;
- Mr. Xu is a member of Renew Crew;
- Mr. Xu is a volunteer of the Canadian Mental Health Association and is currently designing maps for the June 22, 2014 'Ride Don't Hide' event; and,
- 'Ride Don't Hide' is a community bike ride held to support the mental health of women and their families.

**Lilly Nikolova** reported that Operation Med School was successful, and was able to donate \$1000 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

**Hannah Block** reported that Respect Ed held a successful Pink Shirt Day on February 26, 2014 and noted that shirt sales for the event had expanded from previous years.

**Dana Radivojevic** reported that she is a member of Renew Crew and that the 'I Stand' Mental Health Youth Summit will be held in June 2014.

**John Cao** reported the following:

- 'I Stand' will be held in one of the tri-cities;
- 'I Stand' is held to raise mental health awareness; and,
- Slam poet Jacob Gebrewold will be the guest presenter at the event.

**Veronika Gukova** reported that she attended the Youth Environment Summit at the Inn at the Quay, which was held for students all over the region.

**Jelena Mitrovic** suggested that Committee members vote for New Westminster in the BC Green Games contest at [www.bcgreengames.ca](http://www.bcgreengames.ca).

**Ellelan Degife** reported that Operation Med School was successful and was able to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Ms. Degife advised that another Model United Nations conference is being organized for April 2014, and that it will be held at the University of British Columbia.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 5:00pm at Council Chamber, City Hall**

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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**ELLELAN DEGIFE  
CO-CHAIR**

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**ALISON WORSFOLD  
COMMITTEE CLERK**