

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**April 26, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Suk Dya (Lucy) Kim	- Community Member
Maria Marcu	- Community Member
Liyang Ning	- Community Member
Lynn Radbourne	- Community Member
Maryam Salmani	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Harbir Batra	- Community Member
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STAFF PRESENT:

Oana Capota	- Museum Curator
Paul Hyland	- Inspector, Police CID Administration
Rob McCullough	- Manager of Museum and Heritage Services
John Stark	- Acting Manager of Planning
Jan Gibson	- City Clerk (departed at 5:50 p.m.)
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk (arrived at 5:50 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA AND HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Introductions

Chair Councillor Puchmayr, staff and committee members introduced themselves and discussed what they enjoy about sitting on the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee. Responses included:

- Representing the community;
- Studying multiculturalism; and,
- Generation ideas to help immigrants.

1.2 Oaths of Office

Jan Gibson, City Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to all members of the committee present.

1.3 Additions

There were no additions to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 26, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of October 26, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

No Items

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Resident Guide to Municipal Services (tabled from February 22, 2017 meeting)

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, discussed the City of New Westminster Resident Guide to Municipal Services included in the agenda package, indicating that it is based on the City of Coquitlam's guide, and staff is looking into translating and producing it in four languages. Its purpose is to provide information and clarification to both new and current residents who may experience confusion with what services the City provides.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark provided the following information:

- The guide will be available in both paper and online formats;
- The City usually prints 2,000 hard copies per year of its Helping Hand brochure, as not all residents have Internet access;
- The guide will be translated into as many languages as costs allow;
- The guide is available from City Hall, all civic facilities, settlement organizations, and library branches; and,
- The Your New West Newcomers' Guide aims to cover more information about outside organizations and services.

The Committee members provided the following comments in response to reviewing the Guide:

- There could be more photos of seniors included;
- The section on Police services helps to explain the role of policing. It might be helpful to show a photo of an officer in a turban for increased diversity in the Guide;
- More photographs representing the diversity in New Westminster would be an excellent addition to the Guide;
- Consider adding a section about the community centres and/or places where the community can gather;
- Adding web addresses in the Guide, and hyperlinks in the online version, would be helpful for navigating the services on the City's website;
- Consider adding a note stating "Please contact City Hall for more language options"; and,
- Adding contact information about the Residents' Associations would be helpful for neighbourhood-focused information.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the April 26, 2017 report be received for information.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

Action Item: It was requested that the Guide be sent out to the Committee by email, once completed.

Procedural note: Jan Gibson exited the meeting at 5:50 p.m. and Heather Corbett took over as recording secretary

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 New Westminster Museum and Archives Mission and Mandate Statement Review

Rob McCullough, Manager of Museums and Archives, reviewed the New Westminster Museum and Archives' (NWMA) Mission and Mandate Statement Review document included in the Committee package. Mr. McCullough advised that the NWMA has undergone a process to review its Mission and Mandate statements, in conjunction with an advisory group which included a member from the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee, and City and Library staff. The NWMA is looking to use updated, modern language to be inclusive of all cultural groups in the city in its new Mission and Mandate statements.

Mr. McCullough explained that the new statements, as included in the document, have been endorsed by the Community Heritage Commission and, after review from the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee, will proceed to Council.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCullough provided the following information:

- The execution of the NWMA’s Mission statement is reflected in its collections, programs and exhibitions but also through rolling out its work plans to bring all perspectives of the City’s heritage into its work;
- The Mission and Mandate direct the work of the NWMA and the work plans address the specifics of the work; and,
- In considering the wording of the Mission and Mandate statements, it’s important not to be too restrictive in terms of including particular words and references to the people and cultures of New Westminster.

Committee members provided the following comments in response to the report:

- A clearer representation of First Nations peoples and their place within New Westminster should be articulated in the wording to be reflective of history.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee endorses the New Westminster Museum and Archives’ draft Mission and Mandate statement with the provision that language with respect to First Nations cultures and the multicultural community we have in New Westminster today is included in the Mission; and that First Peoples and Diversity be added to Point One (1) of the Mandate.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2 Requests by Ethnic Faith-Based Organizations for More Permissive Zoning Regulations

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, reviewed the report dated April 26, 2017 on the challenges being experienced by faith-based organizations looking for affordable and suitably-zoned properties, and the interim and long-term solutions being examined by the City.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark provided the following information:

- Current commercial locations being used by faith-based organizations will be “grandfathered” into the new policy;
- The zoning amendment as discussed in the report would apply across the City and any faith-based groups would be permitted to use commercially zoned space given they are within the conditions as stated in the policy;
- This policy should be reviewed by the City’s Residents’ Associations;
- It is difficult to control concerns and comments which are phobia-based in nature, however this policy will attempt to address some of the difficulties experienced by faith-based groups;
- It could be feasible for faith-based groups to approach the School District for space; and,
- This issue has come to light because the City has received Bylaw complaints; historically, there has not been as much demand as is being experienced currently.

The discussion concluded with the Committee members providing their general support for the new policy of amending the Zoning Bylaw to permit places of worship in commercially-zoned properties and the Committee concluded that the policy conditions were reasonable and satisfy concerns such as parking and noise.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 WINS Local Immigration Partnership Council Update

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, highlighted two articles that were included in the agenda package concerning racist flyers recently seen in New Westminster. Mr. Stark highlighted that MLA Judy Darcy had taken a stand against this behaviour and brought up an example of a protocol that Abbotsford Police have adopted for addressing incidents of discrimination. Mr. Stark indicated that a similar protocol may be considered by New Westminster and he will report back at a future MAC meeting.

Inspector Paul Hyland, Police Services, reviewed the Police Services' process concerning the recent graffiti and will report back to the committee on whether NWPD have a similar protocol to the Abbotsford protocol document.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

June 28, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR CHUCK PUCHMAYR
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK