

## **MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**June 28, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Committee Room #2, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
Harbir Batra	- Community Member
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Suk Dya (Lucy) Kim	- Community Member
Liyang Ning	- Community Member

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Maria Marcu	- Community Member
Lynn Radbourne	- Community Member
Maryam Salmani	- Community Member

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Oana Capota	- Museum Curator
Claudia Freire	- Social Planner
John Stark	- Acting Manager of Planning
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

#### **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

##### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the June 28, 2017 agenda be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

#### **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

##### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of April 26, 2017**

##### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of April 26, 2017 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

#### **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

## 4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 4.1 Multicultural Festival Update

Councillor Puchmayr updated the Committee on the Multicultural Festival, which takes place at 2pm on July 1<sup>st</sup> at Westminster Pier Park, and concludes with fireworks at dusk, noting the following:

- Entertainers have been contracted, however the First Nations performers have cancelled; and,
- Marketing of the event has posed some challenges, however the event is mentioned in the Record and on the City's website.

Committee members suggested that increased coordination between the Canada Day committee and the Multicultural Festival committee would be desirable for both marketing and entertainment purposes.

### 4.2 New Westminster Museum and Archives Update

Oana Capota, Museum Curator, provided an update on the exhibits, initiatives, and programs that have taken place over the past year at the New Westminster Museum and Archives, in Anvil Centre, including:

- Completion of Irving House tour scripts in five languages;
- National Aboriginal Day – a growing event at Anvil Centre;
- First Nations Historical Timeline – compiled by a volunteer from local Newspaper clippings and soon to include mentions about First Nations from Council minutes;
  - Committee members were very supportive of this project and suggested that the project could present an opportunity for public engagement, perhaps as an interactive timeline online. Councillor Puchmayr agreed and suggested that a project of such sensitive nature should be considered by Council and released with care;
- Black History Month, including a focus on Thomas Forrester who worked for Captain Irving, and Melba Clay, who was pictured in a photo of schoolchildren;
- Recent Acquisitions, including newly acquired items from the City's Sister cities;
- Exhibitions:
  - Dreams of Gold Mountain;
  - Japanese Canadian Soldiers in WWI
  - Plants in New Westminster's history
  - Ornamenting the Ordinary: Crafts of South Asia, including details on the opening night of the exhibition and the film screening of *Running to India*;
  - Film Screening of *Beyond the Wheel*

- The Witness Blanket – a blanket made of artifacts from residential schools as a tribute to truth and reconciliation;
- Spirit of the Children Society Visit – knowledge sharing about the Museum’s Aboriginal basketry collection;
- Community Stories of Truth and Reconciliation
- *Tribe of One* – Film screening with Chief Rhonda Larabee in attendance
- Storytelling: First Nations History School Program

The Committee thanked Ms. Capota for sharing the Museum’s successes and expressed their appreciation for the work put in to the museum’s exhibits.

### **4.3 New Westminster Police Department Discrimination Protocol**

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, reported back on the discrimination protocol which had been discussed at the April 26, 2017 MAC meeting. Mr. Stark informed the committee that the New Westminster Police Department does not currently have a discrimination protocol, but they are exploring how the Abbotsford example protocol could apply to New Westminster and work in conjunction with their current processes for dealing with discriminatory material such as graffiti, posters etc.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Your New West: Facilitating Connections for Newcomers**

John Stark discussed the document included in the Committee’s agenda package, which outlined plans and timelines for developing the *Your New West: Facilitating Connections for Newcomers* project, which would incorporate an event, an update to the Newcomers’ guide, and facilitation of connections for newcomers, with the primary objective of connecting newcomers with City services and helping them feel a sense of belonging.

Mr. Stark reviewed the plans to secure funding from Fraser Health in order to achieve the following outcomes from the proposed event:

- Good attendance from participants and vendors;
- Provide opportunities for attendees to explore City services, facilities and amenities, via distribution of recreation day passes, information, and an opportunity to sign up for a library card;
- Provide opportunities for attendees to register for mentorship and volunteer opportunities;
- Provide opportunities for attendees to offer feedback on measures to reduce barriers to City services and programs;
- Encourage attendees to make connections and feel engaged with the City;
- Distribute the City’s Newcomer’s Guide to attendees; and,
- Collect exit surveys on the success of the event.

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

- It would be beneficial to encourage local sporting organizations to attend the event, as sport is often a positive venue for inclusion;
- It would be beneficial to have the Fire and Police Departments involved in the event;
- The exit survey may be an opportunity to capture the amount of mentorship and support that newcomers receive and experience.

## **5.2 Child Care Insert for Newcomers' Guide (English Version)**

John Stark discussed the Draft Child Care section for the Newcomers' Guide, which was a document included in the meeting agenda package. Mr. Stark informed the Committee that the document would be included as an insert to the Newcomers' Guide after being reviewed by a literacy expert and translated into other languages. Mr. Stark welcomed comments on the document from the Committee.

## **5.3 Immigrant and Refugee Survey**

John Stark discussed the MAC Immigrant and Refugee Survey, which the City is preparing to conduct for 2017 and distribute at the Newcomers' event in the fall. Mr. Stark informed the Committee that the survey collects important data, which informs City actions and settlement organizations. The questions stay similar for each iteration of the survey in order to look at trends between surveys.

The 2014 survey report (which had 220 respondents) was included in the agenda package and Mr. Stark reviewed some notable points and trends, such as:

- Trends on awareness and use of City facilities other social services;
- Police victim assistance, which increased from 2007 to 2013; and,
- Basic services, like Food Bank and the Salvation Army which had very low levels of awareness.

The Committee discussed the survey questions and made the following comments:

- There would be value in including a question on whether an immigrant came to Canada and/or New Westminster on their own or through sponsorship, as this would give an indication of isolation and/or inclusion;
- It may be desirable to ascertain data on religions practiced by survey respondents, as this may be an indication of where newcomers find support networks. Possible questions could include: "Do you feel connected to a faith organization?"; "What services or supports do they provide?"
- It may be worthwhile to add the Anvil Centre and the Youth Centre to the Civic Facilities list

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

The following reports were discussed in Section 5 of the agenda:

### **6.1 Social Connectedness Grant Application**

### **6.2 Child Care Insert**

### **6.3 MAC Immigrant and Refugee Survey Report and Action Plan**

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

September 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Committee Room #2

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED  
**COUNCILLOR CHUCK PUCHMAYR**  
**CHAIR**

ORIGINAL SIGNED  
**HEATHER CORBETT**  
**COMMITTEE CLERK**