

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair (left at 6:50 p.m.)
Mary Campbell	- Community Member
Mike Coca	- Community Member
Karim Hachlaf	- SD40 Representative
Rozina Jaffer	- Community Member
Maria Marcu	- Community Member
Liyang Ning	- Community Member
Angela Sealy	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Gurveen Dhaliwal	- Community Member
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STAFF PRESENT:

Oana Capota	- Curator, New Westminster Museum
Trevor Dudar	- Inspector, New Westminster Police Department
Claudia Freire	- Housing and Social Planner
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities
Dustin Ray-Wilks	- Manager, Aquatics
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 2018 Committee Orientation and Oath of Office

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, provided the Commission with a brief Committee Orientation, during which the following items were addressed:

- Role of Advisory Committee and Terms of Reference;
- Orientation Package Overview;
- Committee Attendance & Quorum;
- Meeting Conduct: Rules of Order, Motions, Discussion, Voting; and,
- City Policies & Freedom of Information.

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

1.2 Appointment of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Angela Sealy be selected as the Alternate Chair for the 2018 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Term.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the February 28, 2018 agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 10, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of October 10, 2017 be adopted.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, noted that quorum was not achieved at the November 22, 2018 meeting, and therefore no minutes were taken.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre Replacement Project

Steve Kellock, Senior Manager of Recreation Services & Facilities, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre replacement project, covering the following information:

- Background and timeline;
- Consultation conducted and resulting community priorities identified;
- Proposed solution and program elements;
- Size and costs; and,
- Proposed site layout and phasing of construction.

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

- Social statements have been identified and will be a framework to guide detail design;
- CPTED factors have been identified and will be addressed by design;
- Discussions have occurred with the local swim club and the design will be able to facilitate swimming competitions;
- The weights area is proposed for the second floor of the facility, with access by elevator;
- The proposed childcare space would provide affordable childcare; and,
- Currently, rooms in the recreation facilities can be rented by any groups who require space, and the Parks & Recreation department have a subsidy program for reductions in fees.

With regards to the plans for the facility, Mr. Kellock requested feedback on the following questions:

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the aquatic needs and priorities of New West?

- The project should accurately reflect the community's requests for cultural accommodations through its design, e.g. ladies only swimming or swimming for people of different cultures and religions (for example, Muslim);
- Safety concerns are important and will need to be accommodated – particularly in terms of how parents will be able to watch their children;
- Implementing a design that will facilitate competitive swimming was encouraged; and,
- New Westminster is a seniors-friendly City and therefore the new facility should facilitate their use of it.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the fitness needs and priorities of New Westminster?

- Providing a fully wheelchair accessible gym is important; and;
- Plate-free weight machines could be considered to address noise concerns.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the community centre and social needs and priorities of New Westminster?

- It would be important to consider the Community Centre's purpose as an inviting, accessible hub, and a gathering place for people from all types of communities and cultures;
- Good examples of successful centres from a multicultural point-of-view are those in the Edmonds area and in West Vancouver, where gatherings and events occur in the welcome centre; and,
- It was suggested that diligent and effective communication about the available gathering spaces would be necessary in order to attract groups to the centre and to make groups aware of the space.

Mr. Kellock also provided a PowerPoint slide regarding the draft Social Sustainability Objectives Framework and asked the Committee for their feedback. The following suggestions were made:

- Add the word “welcoming” to the first sentence: “The facility should be designed to be inclusive, (welcoming), and provide Safe Shelter”;
- The bullets in the second sentence about “reducing barriers” should definitely include gender, and could also include ethnicity and religion; and,
- Add the words “cultural diversity” to the last sentence “The facility should be designed for flexibility (and cultural diversity), accommodating...”.

The Committee also suggested consideration of picture based signs in the facility, rather than text.

Procedural Note: Councillor Puchmayr left the meeting at 6:50 p.m. and Angela Sealy assumed the role of Chair.

4.2 Update on New Westminster Museum and Archives’ Multicultural Work

Oana Capota, Museum Curator, provided an update on past and future exhibits, initiatives, and programs taking place at the New Westminster Museum and Archives, in Anvil Centre, including:

Past Exhibitions:

- 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 – panel & Q&A;
- Tribe of One – Film screening with Chief Rhonda Larabee in attendance;
- Storytelling: First Nations History School Program, which included three sessions and 1000 children in attendance;
- National Aboriginal Day – June 21, 2017 at Anvil Centre;
- Diwali Celebration and the development of the 2019 exhibit of Sukh Sagar Gurdwara 100th anniversary;
- Planning New West – exhibits on how the City was formed both culturally and physically;
- Bottoms Up – the culture of drink in the Royal City:
 - Brought in the Ethiopian community to participate;
 - Included a self-guided walking tour of establishments in the City, with a digital walking tour being launched soon;

Upcoming Exhibitions (2018-2020):

- People Gotta Move – a transportation exhibit, including canoes, ferries, railroad;

- Getting the Word Out – about the printing industry in the City, which may present an opportunity to incorporate many cultures into the exhibits;
- The Heat is On: Keeping Warm Then and Now – will contain a historical component, as well as a focus on climate change;
- Call of the Wild – living with animals in the City;
- History of Toilets in New Westminster;
- Childcare in New Westminster; and,
- Belonging exhibit, in conjunction with Arts Services of New Westminster which explored the question ‘What does New Westminster as home mean to you?’.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It is admirable that the Museum explores all sides of the stories they tell, as it helps to understand and reflect on why events occurred; and,
- If not already doing so, it would be beneficial to reach out to other museums and organizations in the region to borrow artifacts and make partnerships, as there are many resources available.

Ms. Capota invited committee members to join the Museum Advisory Group, and welcomed committee members to come to Anvil for a tour of the Museum.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 New Westminster Newcomers Festival and Information Fair

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, updated the committee on the ‘Newcomers Festival and Information Fair’ being held on Saturday, March 24, 2018, and circulated the flyer, draft schedule of events and list of invited organizations.

The committee discussed the purpose of the fair, which is to connect newcomers to the City and community social services organizations, connect them with resources, and create the opportunities to connect with other community members in a celebratory, informative and participatory manner.

Ms. Freire invited committee members to join the working committee.

5.2 Welcome and Integration Centre Update

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, updated the committee on the Welcome and Integration Centre that was previously proposed to form part of the replacement of New Westminster Secondary School.

Ms. Freire discussed the documented need for such a centre in the City based on the population of immigrants in the City, which in 2016 was 34.9% of New Westminster’s population, and the need for recent immigrants and refugees to navigate available services. She reported that the Welcoming and Inclusive New

Westminster (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership Council, which has been in existence since 2008, has repeatedly called for the development of a Welcome and Integration Centre, which would provide one-stop access to settlement information and services.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT The Multiculturalism Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to:

- *Clarify the status of the Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) proposal, with particular reference to a Welcome and Integration Centre, for the replacement of New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS);*
- *Document the continued need for a Welcome and Integration Centre;*
- *Based on NLC status and need, possibly hold discussions with the responsible Provincial Ministry or Ministries to determine if a Welcome and Integration Centre could be a consideration as part of the replacement of NWSS; and,*
- *Based on NLC status and need, explore possible funding sources for the development and operation of a Welcome and Integration Centre in New Westminster.*

CARRIED.

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

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

Procedural Note: Item 6.1 was addressed before item 4.2

6.1 Multicultural Fair Representatives

Councillor Puchmayr requested volunteers who would be willing to serve as representatives of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee on the Multicultural Fair committee, which is an event organized by the New Westminster Philippine Festival Society and takes place on Canada Day.

Rozina Jaffer and Mike Coca volunteered.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR CHUCK PUCHMAYR
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK