

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
Boardroom A, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Mary Campbell	- Community Member
Mike Coca	- Community Member
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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GUEST:

Karen Klein	- SD40 Representative
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STAFF PRESENT:

Constable Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police Department
Oana Capota	- Museum Curator
Claudia Freire	- Housing and Social Planner
Staff Sergeant Andrew Perry	- New Westminster Police Department
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

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

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the June 27, 2018 agenda be approved with the addition of Unfinished Business Item 4.3: Multicultural Festival by Councillor Puchmayr.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of April 25, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the April 25, 2018 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Food Security Action Plan

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, advised members that the Food Security Action Plan work was initiated through the City's 2016 Community Poverty Reduction Strategy and involved working with various community partners, with the following barriers and challenges identified:

- Lack of awareness of food programs in the community;
- Limited access to bulk buying and meal preparation programs;
- Limited coordination of food security efforts, including meal programs; and,
- Lack of culturally appropriate food options.

Once the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy process was complete, the City applied for and received a grant from Vancouver Foundation's Community Poverty Reduction Fund to develop a Food Security Action Plan, including:

- Hold a Food Security Summit to:
 - Identify gaps and needs related to food and meal programs; and,
 - Foster collaboration and coordination among food providers.
- Develop a Food Security Action Plan and Sustainability Framework to:
 - Address barriers, gaps and needs within the community;
 - Establish a coordinating body;
 - Raise community awareness; and,
 - Identify donor and sponsorship opportunities.

Next steps include reviewing feedback, refining proposed actions, and developing a food security action plan document.

Discussion ensued, with the Committee noting the following:

- Councillor Puchmayr and Ms. Freire will further discuss the possibility of land on Councillor Puchmayr's Barnston Island charity farm being used to grow food for an organization;
- The Last Door Recovery Society's farm may also be able to donate food;

- Although identified as a gap, New Westminster Family Services has a community kitchen that helps immigrants learn how to cook, how to use appliances, and how to shop for food, however budget training is currently not included;
- The Lookout Society may be interested in expanding food security programs which, along with community kitchens, are provided for their residents;
- Ms. Freire advised that there are a variety of programs at identified schools including breakfasts and hot lunches, a veggie program, and fresh food hampers, and,
- Ms. Capota announced that the museum would be showcasing a food security exhibit next spring and invited members to participate.

3.2 2013 MAC Immigrant and Refugee Survey – (See Item 5.1)

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Update on 824 Agnes Street Park

During the April 25, 2018 meeting, Mary Campbell, Community Member, offered to guide members on a tour of the Sun Yat-Sen Garden to provide understanding of the symbolism within Chinese gardens.

Ms. Campbell stated that about 5-6 people attended the tour, including the landscape artists who are working on the design for the Park. Ms. Campbell provided the following additional information:

- Understanding the symbolism attached to tree selection is important;
- Chinese gardens consist of trees, rocks, water, and incorporation of the building;
- Attendees learned what to consider when designing the Agnes Street garden;
- The landscape architects are consulting with a Penjing master artist for assistance with tree selection and possible ongoing maintenance of the trees (Note: Penjing is the ancient Chinese art of depicting artistically formed trees, other plants, and landscapes in miniature); and,
- Members who were unable to join the April tour are still welcome anytime to stop by the Sun Yat-Sen Garden for a tour.

4.2 Update on Inter-Governmental Committee on Settlement

Ms. Freire advised that the Inter-Governmental Committee on Settlement is meeting tomorrow, adding that they meet three to four times a year to discuss immigrant integration and settlement.

4.3 Multicultural Festival

Councillor Puchmayr invited committee members to attend the July 1st Multicultural Festival which is hosted by the New Westminster Philippine Festival Society. The Festival will take place at Pier Park and include, amongst other things, live entertainment, local business booths, exhibits, and an end of evening fireworks display at the Quay. He advised that the Philippine Festival Society is always looking for contributors to the Festival and encouraged members to contact them directly if they are interested in participating in the event.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Immigrant and Refugee Survey Report and Action Plan – (See Item 3.2)

Ms. Freire shared that in 2007, Access New Westminster conducted an Immigrant Survey, and in 2012, the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee prepared a second Immigrant and Refugee Survey designed to improve services and supports for new immigrants and refugees and to inform efforts to create a more welcoming and inclusive community.

Ms. Freire queried if updating the survey is a project that members would like to see undertaken and the following comments were made by the Committee:

- Funding should be considered to offset the cost, noting that if the expenditure were to fall outside the budget, it would need to go to Council for approval;
- This is a subject matter that is important to follow up on; and,
- The New Westminster High School population should be included in the new survey.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Multicultural Advisory Committee ask Council to consider updating the Immigrant and Refugee Survey, seek funding from other entities to offset the cost of the survey, and to include in the survey, questions posed specifically to New Westminster's high school student population with respect to their personal experiences as recent immigrants or refugees to the City.

CARRIED.

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

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Freire provided the following comments:

- The Welcoming and Inclusive New West (WINS) Community Partnership Table, which receives funding through Citizenship and Immigration Canada, is working on many of these items and could provide a presentation to the Committee; and,
- A new survey would help to identify some of the gaps identified by members.

Further discussion ensued, with the Committee noting the following:

- With respect to staff looking into the possible re-implementation of programs that assist immigrants in receiving training and seeking employment, and funded language classes that also provide daycare, it is possible that these programs are already being offered by other organizations such as WINS;
- Programs that are already available, or missing, in the community would likely be identified through the new survey and possibly become action items;
- A welcome centre at the library could be included in the library upgrades; and,
- Members are curious to see the trends in the new survey.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 World Refugee Day Proclamation

Committee members Angela Sealy, Rozina Jaffer, and Mike Coca, along with Mohammed Alsaleh, a Syrian refugee, attended the June 11th Council meeting to request a proclamation of World Refugee Day on June 20, 2018, and to discuss the importance of World Refugee Day with Council. Mr. Alsaleh provided a five minute presentation to Council outlining his experiences as a refugee, which was very well received.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Multicultural Advisory Committee send a letter to Mr. Mohammed Alsaleh to officially thank him for sharing his story as a Syrian refugee with City Council at the June 11, 2018 Council meeting.

CARRIED.

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

6.2 National Indigenous Peoples Day

Constable Wendy Bowyer advised that the New Westminster Police Department's (NWPD) booth at the National Indigenous Peoples Day received over 100 visitors which was a significant improvement over last year. Police personnel enjoyed learning about indigenous culture and look forward to returning to the event on a yearly basis.

Staff Sergeant Andrew Perry advised that, during public events, NWPD members would not shy away from questions of a sensitive nature (such as racism and the high rates of incarcerated indigenous people) and acknowledged that these topics need to be addressed. He added that sometimes questions of this nature may need to be referred to a superior who may have more knowledge of how the issue is being dealt with at a higher level and can respond most appropriately.

Committee members provided the following comments:

- Having the NWPD participate in events such as this is a great way to learn about the culture and build relationships in the community; and,
- Council recently passed a motion to have a seat on all civic committees for a First Nations Representative, adding that there are already three committees with First Nations representation.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 WINS Local Immigration Partnership Council Update

This was Item was discussed under Item: 5.1: Immigrant and Refugee Survey Report and Action Plan.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR PUCHMAYR
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE CLERK