

## **MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chamber, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Angela Sealy	- Alternate Chair, Community Member
Mary Campbell	- Community Member (arrived at 5:40)
Mike Coca	- Community Member
Rozina Jaffer	- Community Member
Karen Klein	- SD40 Representative

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Gurveen Dhaliwal	- Community Member
Maria Marcu	- Community Member
Liyang Ning	- Community Member

#### **GUESTS**

Councillor Chinu Das	- City Council Member
Alan Hill	- Poet Laureate

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police Department
Claudia Freire	- Social Planner
Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Angela Sealy assumed the role of Chair.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

Councillor Chinu Das introduced herself to the Committee and noted that she was taking over from Councillor Puchmayr as Chair for the 2019 term.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 26, 2018**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the September 26, 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 Alan Hill, Poet Laureate**

Alan Hill, Poet Laureate, reviewed the details of a community poetry project based on his recently published book *The Narrow Road to the Far West: Travelling New Westminster by Postcard*, providing the following information:

- The book contains 50 “postcard poems” about notable places in New Westminster;
- The project would involve asking community members to contribute poems about their own favourite places in the City to form a new version or anthology of the book;
- The aim of the project would be to encourage a wide cross section of residents to practice their writing, to reflect the views and creativity of the community, and for the book to become a legacy of the current community in the City;
- There could be spinoffs attached to the book, such as mapping and art projects; and,
- The first step in the process would be to create terms of reference for the project and to spread the word across a wide cross-section of the City.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Hill noted that any member of the community would be welcome to contribute, and it would be valuable to ensure that the City’s diverse community is represented in the project;

The Committee noted the following comments:

- It could be worthwhile to present the project to the New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) Principals’ monthly meeting in order to get youth (and their parents) involved;
- Poetry is a universal medium that has the capacity to bring people together, despite language barriers, and showcase different viewpoints;
- It would be worthwhile to bring this project back to the committee in February with a set of objectives and parameters drafted; and,

- It would be worthwhile to reach out to other community groups such as the Welcoming and Inclusive Committee (WINS) for their comment on the initiative.

### **3.2 Social Equity Policy**

Claudia Freire, Social Planner, provided the Committee with a Powerpoint presentation on a social equity policy for the City, which is in the early stages of development, discussing the following information:

- Definition of social equity, intersectionality, and the concept of systemic barriers to inclusion;
- Concept of a social equity lens, and the areas it would be applied within the City;
- Profiles that would be created through the engagement process with committees;
- Next steps within the policy development process;

The Committee noted the following comments:

- It would be important for this policy to be supported and implemented throughout the entire organization;
- Ensure that the definition is representative of all sections of society, be it gender, culture, social status, income etc.;
- It would be effective to develop a visionary statement of the overall policy and identify the main focus in order to ensure change happens;
- The intersectionality piece of this work is important;
- The personalization of the example profile is written with an inclusionary tone which works well;

The Committee was led through a Social Equity lens exercise and the results were as follows:

- Exclusion often occurs through language, culture and income barriers;
- Exclusion can prevent people from contributing and participating and feeling welcome;
- The important task is to invite marginalized groups in, which can often mean developing an understanding and awareness of cultural sensitivities; and,
- Evaluation is needed of how to deliver City programs with a social equity lens and awareness.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Update on Inter-Governmental Committee on Settlement**

Claudia Freire, Social Planner, provided meeting notes from the last Inter-Governmental Committee on October 19, 2018, including the following updates:

- Acting Director of the Multiculturalism Branch, Provincial Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, provided an overview of ministry structure and branch programs;
- Program Manager, Canadian Heritage, presented information on federal multiculturalism programs, including priorities for 2019;
- Program update from Director, Settlement Network, BC-Yukon, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); and,
- Presentation on the Multi Agency Partnership (MAP) project on housing for refugees.

The Committee was offered a presentation by the Program Manager, Canadian Heritage, at a future MAC meeting, which was met with agreement. Councillor Das suggested this may also be of interest to the WINS Local Immigration Partnership Table.

### **4.2 2019 Newcomers Festival and Information Fair**

Claudia Freire, Social Planner, noted that MOSAIC has applied for a grant to ensure that the Newcomers Festival and Information Fair would happen in 2019, and the results would be known shortly. If successful, the event would move into the planning stage and the group would be convened in early January.

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Freire noted that the target date for the event would be March 2019.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 New Westminster Museum and Archive Committee Update**

Mary Campbell, Community Member and Representative to the New Westminster Museum and Archive Committee, provided the following information about potential exhibits at the Museum:

- A play is taking place at Anvil Centre in February 2019 about land ownership issues from an Aboriginal perspective and the Museum has been approached to put on an exhibit or workshop at the same time; and,

- The Museum has been approached about a potential exhibit on cultural heritage, where community members would be asked to bring in personal and historical artifacts to show the cultural makeup of the City.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date will be confirmed in early 2019.

## **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Certified correct,

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ORIGINAL SIGNED  
**ANGELA SEALY**  
**CHAIR**

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