

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Councillor Chuck Puchmayr | - Chair, City Council Member |
| Mike Coca | - Community Member |
| Rozina Jaffer | - Community Member |
| Karen Klein | - SD40 Representative |
| Maria Marcu | - Community Member |
| Liyang Ning | - Community Member |
| Angela Sealy | - Community Member |

MEMBERS REGRETS:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Campbell | - Community Member |
| Gurveen Dhaliwal | - Community Member |

STAFF PRESENT:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Oana Capota | - Museum Curator |
| Trevor Dudar | - New Westminister Police Department |
| John Stark | - Senior Social Planner |
| Heather Corbett | - Committee Clerk |

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the September 26, 2018 agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 27, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the June 27, 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 Multiculturalism 101

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the background, history and function of the Multiculturalism Committee, including the following information:

- Background and history of Multiculturalism committee;
- About New Westminster – the location, history and diversity of the City;
- Statistics about immigration and population growth in the City, including the top three countries of origin for immigrants and refugees;
- Statistics about visible minority status and languages spoken in the City;
- Details about the MAC Immigrant Survey, including information collected about the challenges that immigrants and refugees faced in obtaining employment, housing, medical services and general information;
- The benefits of successful integration into the workforce, and the concept of a welcoming and inclusive community;
- The history of Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces (WICWP) and the funded projects that were established;
- City Initiatives on multiculturalism:
 - Establishment of MAC;
 - Immigrant and Refugee survey;
 - Formal apology to Chinese community in 2010, resulting in reconciliation park;
 - Safe Harbour Program implemented for all staff;
 - Inclusion Enhancement Initiative at Century House;
 - Translation Policy Framework;
 - Newcomer Connect Day;
 - Welcome and Integration Centre and Neighbourhood Learning Centre in schools; and
- Possible future initiatives for MAC:
 - Review of policies
 - Implementation of new survey

The committee made the following comments:

- It may be helpful to reach out to local Doctors' associations to inquire whether they are able to help with assisting immigrants in locating medical services, or to attend the City's Newcomer Connect Day;
- Some walk-in clinics offer translation services, which is helpful;
- The Division of Family Practice is starting to connect with neighbourhood houses and community programs in order to increase public reach;
- The availability of 211 (a nonprofit organization that specializes in providing free information and referral regarding community, government and social services in BC) could be more widespread, as it is a helpful resource for immigrants; and,
- A key focus could be on employment and skills and how to skills of immigrants to translate onto paper so that employers understand the skills available.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Food Security Action Plan

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, updated the committee on the City's Food Security Action Plan, which was developed as a response to increasing levels of food insecurity in New Westminister, including lack of awareness, limited access and poor coordination.

Mr. Stark noted that the action plan involved over 30 community, faith, settlement and social service organizations in its development and listed several of the 38 actions which came out of the action plan.

Mr. Stark further noted that while the City coordinated the development of the plan, it will not take a lead role with regard to its implementation, and will look for an external body to take this on, such as the New Westminister Community Food Action Committee, the New Westminister Community Poverty Reduction Committee or the New Westminister Homelessness Coalition Society.

The committee noted that the SHARE society in Port Moody is a good place to go to access food in a respectful manner and should be a model for Food Banks in the area.

Mr. Stark offered to send all members of the committee a copy of the Food Security Action Plan.

4.2 Update on Inter-Governmental Committee on Settlement

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, updated the committee on the Inter-Governmental Committee on Settlement, noting that its purpose is for Municipalities and other agencies (such as BC Housing and TransLink) to come

together to provide information to the Provincial and Federal governments. The committee is currently focusing on three key areas:

- Housing
- Employment – to work on credential recognition; and,
- Transportation – to work on ways for immigrants to better access services, such as reduced bus passes;

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Stark indicated that the inter-governmental committee has had two meetings so far, with a third coming up, and he would report back at the next MAC meeting.

4.3 Immigrant and Refugee Survey Report and Action Plan – John Stark

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, discussed the Immigrant and Refugee Survey, which were last carried out in 2007 and 2013. He noted that the City is planning for the next survey to occur in 2019, however there are concerns that the Library renovation may pose a significant hurdle in its implementation. The challenge is that many people access the survey from the Library, and currently the Library would not be able to accommodate a booth for this purpose.

Mr. Stark discussed that the next committee term will focus on this survey and the format of questions. The survey may be scheduled for Spring 2019, when the Library is more operational.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

Procedural Note: Item 5.1 was addressed prior to Item 3.1

5.1 Committee Recruitment Reminder

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, reminded the committee that their term would expire on January 31, 2019, and discussed the volunteer application process, as well as the fact that the City had included diversity questions on the application form this year.

5.2 2019 Newcomers Festival and Information Fair – John Stark

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, noted that the Newcomers Festival and Information Fair is currently in planning, however funding has not yet been identified. The Planning department would be submitting proposals to the United Way and Vancouver Foundation to acquire funds for this event. Mr. Stark announced that a planning session was upcoming on October 3, 2018, and more information would be sent out in this regard.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Immigrant and Refugee Survey – Report to Council, August 27, 2018

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR PUCHMAYR
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK