

## **MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.  
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Chinu Das	- City Council Member
Harbir Batra	- Community Member
Mary Campbell	- Community Member
Mike Coca	- Community Member
Halim Habibi	- Community Member
Jessica Roca-Muncaster	- Community Member
Elaine Su	- Community Member
Kelsi Wall	- Community Member

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Karen Klein	- SD40 Representative
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#### **GUESTS**

Paul Fast	- HCMA Architecture + Design
Alexandra Kenyon	- HCMA Architecture + Design

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police Department
Oana Capota	- Curator, Museums and Heritage Services
Claudia Freire	- Social Planner
Dustin Ray-Wilks	- Manager, Aquatics
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

## **1.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **1.1 Committee Orientation and Oaths of Office**

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, led a round of introductions and provided a Committee Orientation presentation, reviewing the following documents:

- Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) Terms of Reference;
- Committee Rules of Conduct;
- City of New Westminster (CNW) Respectful Workplace Policy;
- CNW Social Media Policy; and,
- Freedom of Information Permission Forms.

Ms. Corbett administered the Oath of Office to all members of the MAC present.

**Procedural Note:** Item 1.2 was addressed prior to Item 1.1

### **1.2 New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre**

Paul Fast, HCMA Architecture + Design, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed design of the New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre, including the following information:

- Project timeline, site layout, and access routes to the site;
- Green space, play components, and programmable spaces on the site;
- Floor plans of the building, including two options for the pool, depending on grant funding; and,
- Proposed changing facilities and options for privacy swims.

Mr. Fast noted that the design team were looking for comments from Committee members on the proposed design, in particular the options for privacy swims and changing facilities, in order to embed any feedback into the future detailed design.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Fast and Dustin Ray-Wilks, Manager, Aquatics, provided the following information:

- A pipe and drape system is proposed for screening off the spectator area during privacy swims, as well as restricted access to the spectator area on the upper floor;
- The cubicles in the universal changing rooms would be in multiple sizes, including appropriate sizes for families;
- All changing rooms would include “Koala features”, such as secure booster seats and change tables;
- The multi-purpose rooms proposed in the new centre would be programmed by public rentals or by the City;

- As per the current process, public programs would have first access to booking the multi-purpose rooms before making them available for rental;
- The large multi-purpose room is proposed as 600 sq. ft., with a capacity of 100 people;
- The aquatic centre would be assessed under the Rick Hansen accessibility program, which is a comprehensive program for the accommodation of disabilities; and,
- A seniors-only swim may be a future programming option, and would also form part of the discussions around accessibility.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- The privacy provisions would open up many opportunities to women in the community who have requested this;
- It would also be important to ensure that there would be a private access route to the pool from the changing rooms;
- The privacy properties may require more detail and consultation in order to ensure the appropriateness and full enclosure of all areas that would be accessed by the segment of the population requesting the privacy swims;
- There would likely be a high demand for the large multi-purpose room, as there are no publically accessible banquet hall facilities in the City; and,
- Kitchen facilities would be very important to include in the plans for the larger multi-purpose rooms.

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

### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the agenda of the February 20, 2019 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be amended as follows:*

- *Remove Item 1.3: Multiculturalism 101;*
- *Add Item 5.5: New West Hate Crime Response Protocol; and,*

*THAT the agenda of the February 20, 2019 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be approved as amended.*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 28, 2018**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the November 28, 2018 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 2019 Newcomers Festival and Information Fair**

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, updated the Committee on the Newcomers Festival and Information Fair, which is organized by the City and members from WINS Local Immigration Partnership Council, and is being held on Saturday, March 30, 2019, at Century House.

The committee discussed the history and purpose of the fair, which is to connect newcomers to the City's resources and services, and other community social services organizations. The event is also intended to create opportunities to connect community members in a celebratory, informative and participatory manner.

Ms. Freire invited committee members to join the working committee or to get involved on the day of the event.

### **4.2 Social Equity Policy**

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, provided a brief update on the City's work on a social equity policy, noting that the intention is to create a policy for use by Council and staff that reduces barriers and employs a social equity lens when making decisions about policies, programs and services.

Ms. Freire noted that extensive consultation would begin on this work in 2019 and further information would be presented at future MAC meetings.

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

- This would be a new policy for the City; and,
- The impetus for development of this policy was a Council commitment to ensure the City and its services are welcoming and inclusive.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Appointment of Alternate Chair**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Halim Habibi be appointed as the Alternate Chair of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee for the 2019 term.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 5.2 Sanctuary City Motion

Councillor Das reviewed the background and details of her upcoming motion to Council on the feasibility of becoming a Sanctuary City. This would entail the City developing a policy that would ensure all residents, including those who are undocumented residents (refugee claimants, temporary workers etc.), are treated fairly in terms of access to City programs and services.

Councillor Das noted the next steps in the process, which would include significant input by the MAC before it returns to Council for approval.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Das provided the following information:

- The Police Department's role in a Sanctuary City would remain the same as their current role;
- The Sanctuary City policy would not mean that the City could provide protection or inform decision-making on matters of immigration policy; and,
- The Council report on the feasibility of becoming a Sanctuary City would demonstrate the City's responsibilities in terms of immigration matters.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- Concern was expressed that this may encourage people to come to the City and take advantage of perceived services or refuge; and,
- This policy would ensure that people would feel welcomed with compassion.

## 5.3 Speak Up, Speak Out: Responding to Bias and Prejudice

Councillor Das reviewed recent Welcoming and Inclusive New West (WINS) Local Immigration Partnerships initiatives on addressing acts of discrimination, including a newly designed hate crime protocol (see Item 5.5) and a useful method for handling racist remarks, as suggested by Alden Habacon, a specialist on diversity and inclusion.

## 5.4 Topics of Interest to the MAC

This item was briefly covered during the introductions section of the Committee Orientation and it was decided to bring the topic forward to the next meeting.

**Procedural Note:** Item 5.5 was addressed after Item 5.3

## 5.5 New West Hate Crime Response Protocol

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, provided the Committee with background information on the draft Welcoming and Inclusive New West (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership's New West Hate Crime Response Protocol (On-Table item), and asked for feedback about the document, in terms of any information that may be missing or unclear.

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Freire noted that the information about the protocol would be circulated through the WINS Local Immigration Partnership.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- The term “protocol” may be too official if this is a document that is intended for the public to use;
- More approachable and simplified terminology which suggests the intent of the document may be more successful;
- As the document is New Westminster specific, the NWPD Victim Assistance Unit (VAU) phone number, and a link to the NWPD's online reporting system may be more appropriate and straightforward to use; and,
- Some questions suggested to pose back to WINS include:
  - Will this document be translated?
  - Does the concept of hate crime translate?
  - Is the concept of hate crime understood at a basic level?

## 6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

### 6.1 Update from Museum – Oana Capota (Museum Curator)

Oana Capota, Museum Curator, discussed her role at the museum and described two upcoming museum exhibits that may be of interest to Committee members:

- You Are What You Eat:
  - Opening in May 2019;
  - The exhibit will be in English and pictures will be provided, however the Museum is looking for any volunteers who may be interested in translating food names into different languages;
- The Heat is On: Keeping Warm Then and Cool Now:
  - Opening in Fall 2019;
  - Examining climate change and other weather patterns; and
  - The Museum is looking for input from different communities and cultures about warmth strategies.

Committee members recommended that Ms. Capota speak with the WINS Local Immigration Partnership, as they may be able to provide resources in terms of languages and translation services.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Committee Room #2

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Certified correct,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**  
**COUNCILLOR CHINU DAS**  
**CHAIR**

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