

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chinu Das	- Chair, City Council Member
Mary Campbell	- Community Member (Arrived at 5:45 p.m.)
Mike Coca	- Community Member
Halim Habibi	- Community Member, Alternate Chair (Arrived at 6:05 p.m.)
Karen Klein	- SD40 Representative
Kelsi Wall	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Harbir Batra	- Community Member
Jessica Roca-Muncaster	- Community Member
Elaine Su	- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminister Police Department
Oana Capota	- Curator, New Westminister Museum
Claudia Freire	- Housing / Social Planner
Paul Hyland	- Inspector, New Westminister Police Department
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the September 18, 2019 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be adopted, with the following amendments:

5.2 *Human Library at the Museum*

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Procedural Note: Item 2.1 was addressed after Item 4.1

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 11, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the June 11, 2019 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Sanctuary City Designation – Claudia Freire

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation and circulated a draft Sanctuary City policy based on feedback from the previous MAC meeting and the Welcoming and Inclusive New Westminster (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership Council, including potential names for the policy, and asked the Committee for feedback.

Committee members noted the following comments about the naming of the policy:

- It would be helpful to have defined terminology and definitions before discussing names for the policy;
- A shorter name for the policy would be the most successful;
- As there is some confusion about the meaning of Sanctuary City, clarification of the policy's intention could be included in the title of the policy, such as in the form of a tag line; and,
- It may be helpful to provide the policy in other languages.

Ms. Freire presented the draft policy statement in comparison to examples from other municipalities in Canada, and asked the Committee for feedback on the wording, noting that the descriptors of immigration status in bold were for discussion purposes.

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

- The policy statement would be examined through several stages of engagement, including external and internal stakeholders;
- The policy would be reviewed by the MAC at all stages; and,
- The City would work with WINS, other non-profit agencies and other organizations that work with newly settled populations to communicate this policy.

Committee members noted the following comments about the wording of the policy statement:

- Use of the word undocumented may be a useful addition to the immigration statuses noted in the policy statement;
- It would be important to ensure that all immigration statuses used in the policy statement are clearly defined and understandable; and,
- It may be useful to be explicit that immigration status would not impact one's ability to access the City's services.

Ms. Freire presented the draft Policy Directives, and the Committee provided the following points of feedback:

A. Access to City Services

- Ensure wording is consistent;

B. Identification, Privacy and Reporting:

- It would be important to detail the circumstances noted as "Required by law";
- Item (f) could be removed or re-worded, as there would not likely be a lawful requirement for staff to report anyone to Police services;
- Obtaining legal advice may be relevant regarding Item (f);
- The Identification section may require further examples and definitions;
- If no defined policy regarding ID or proof of living in the City, people from other municipalities may take advantage of the policy;
- It would be important to look at the Parks & Recreation policies regarding ID to identify any gaps;
- Flexibility of the frequency and type of ID to be provided may be necessary;

C. Implementation components:

- It would be important to identify which City departments would be the most affected by the policy and ensure the relevant staff are well informed, i.e. Parks and Recreation, Museums, City Hall services, Police.

The Committee discussed the Police Department's involvement in the policy, noting the following comments:

- The Police Department would not be asking victims of crime about their immigration status;
- This policy would not apply to people who have been arrested – it does not mean that people can “have sanctuary” in the City;
- The Police force would look to formalize guidelines in regards to this City policy; and,
- Training of police, and other departments, in regards to this policy would need to be extensive, including scenarios to be played out in training sessions.

Ms. Freire noted that next steps include internal stakeholder consultation in October and external engagement in early 2020, with the goal of Council consideration in 2020.

Procedural Note: Item 4.2 was addressed after Item 2.1

4.2 New Westminster Multicultural Festival, July 1, 2019

The committee discussed the Multicultural Festival which took place on July 1 at Pier Park. It was noted that the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) could explore an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of how the Festival is run, and discuss the broader question of what Multiculturalism means in the City.

In response to a question from the Committee, Councillor Das noted that the Multicultural Festival has previously been funded through the City grant process and a grant has been awarded to the New Westminster Philippine Festival Society in recent years.

Committee members noted the following in discussion:

- It may be of value to set up a working group composed of one or two members of MAC, and other groups within the City, which could meet two to three times to delve into what the festival could look like now and in the future, and return a report to the MAC and Council;
- Possible questions for the group to explore could include:
 - Should the Multicultural Festival be amalgamated with, or form a part of, the Canada Day celebrations?
 - Should there be a separate Multicultural Festival held on a different day?
 - Should multiculturalism form a part of all celebrations and festivals, including the Canada Day celebrations?
 - Should festival grant funding related to multiculturalism be available to one organization or should it be pooled in order to facilitate

participation (or reduce barriers to participation) by a number of cultural and ethnic organizations?

- Bringing the broader community in as members of the group would be important;
- Possible members of the working group could include members who represent the cultural and ethnic diversity of New Westminster, such as:
 - One community member from the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee;
 - The Coordinator from the Welcoming and Inclusive New Westminster (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership Council;
 - One member from the New Westminster Philippine Festival Society;
 - One representative from the Spirit of the Children Society; and,
 - Representatives from the following agencies:
 - Immigrant Services Society of BC,
 - MOSAIC,
 - SUCCESS and
 - Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op.
- Any discussion on multiculturalism within a community context should have an emphasis on education, which could possibly inform the purpose of the festival;
- A working group may provide an opportunity to educate the public on the MAC and the work that it does as a City committee;
- If the working group were to decide not to have a festival but instead to promote awareness of multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion in the general community, then this would also be valuable; and,
- Having these discussions may also bring in other funding opportunities for the Festival.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee recommend that Council approve the establishment of a working group which represents the cultural and ethnic diversity of New Westminster, including Indigenous representation, which will be tasked with reviewing the Multicultural Festival which takes place annually on July 1st.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 New Westminster Police Department Youth Mentorship Program

Constable Wendy Bowyer, New Westminster Police Department, provided information about the Police Department's newly formed Youth Mentorship Program, noting the following:

- The aim of the two-year mentorship program is to close the gap between the youth academy and the reserve force and to provide a developmental pathway to policing;
- The program includes elements such as fitness testing, team-building, guest speakers, interviewing skills, and information about law enforcement, with a focus on the importance of diversity; and,
- The program is wholly funded by the Police Department and help is needed to spread the word to diverse groups across the City.

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

- It is not mandatory that applicants be New Westminster residents;
- More information about the application process and structure can be found on the Police website;
- The information has been sent to the Youth Advisory Committee; and,
- There is a loose application deadline of end of October but applications would be accepted after this date.

Committee members suggested the following avenues for distribution of the information:

- Purpose Society;
- WINS Local Immigration Partnership Council; and,
- Present it to the School Board and reinforce in schools through the Police School Liaison.

5.2 Human Library at the Museum

Oana Capota, Curator, New Westminster Museum, described the Museum's Human Library program, which provides participants with opportunities to learn about history from community members, and develop inter-generational and multicultural connections. Ms. Capota asked Committee members to spread the word among their connections and networks.

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

- The Museum is looking for four to six people to participate in the program;
- The program runs for two hours and participants also have the opportunity to participate in workshops on storytelling and presenting; and,
- The program is open to any geography or time period, and different experiences are encouraged.

