

**Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, February 14, 2022**

**Meeting held electronically and in Committee Room 2**

**City Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Chinu Das                      Chair  
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

**STAFF MEMBERS:**

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Renee Chadwick	Manager, Special Projects and Community Partnerships
Mr. Chris Koth	Manager of Programs and Community Development
Ms. Corrinne Garrett	Senior Manager Recreation Facilities and Programs
Mr. Robert McCullough	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Mr. John Stark	Supervisor of Community Planning
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Manager, Intergovernmental and Community Relations

**OTHER STAFF:**

Ms. Zaria Alibhai	Coordinator, Public Engagement and Communications
Ms. Jacque Killawee	City Clerk
Ms. Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Das opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

**2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**3.1 January 17, 2022**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the minutes of the January 17, 2022 Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force meeting be adopted.

**Carried.**

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

**4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Draft Policy: Engagement Honoraria**

Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the draft Engagement Honoraria Policy which is intended to encourage public input. She requested feedback from Task Force members.

In response to questions from Task Force members, Ms. Miller, John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, and Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, provided the following comments:

- The Canadian Mental Health consultant assisting with the Peer Assisted Crises Team Pilot Project could use the Policy as a guideline but it would not specifically apply to non-city engagement; however, the argument could be made that the Policy would be applied when working in organizational partnerships;
- Community Action Network (CAN) Leadership training graduates with lived and living experience are currently involved in public engagement with the City and receiving compensation of \$25 per hour as they are recognized as subject matter experts. Learnings from this initiative could help in the

creation of this Policy which is an important piece of work to ensure that future policies and services are more representative of the community, including those that are usually overlooked; and,

- The Policy, as outlined, is public engagement and not for application to advisory committees.

In discussion, members provided the following comments:

- Concern was raised that the initial intention of the Policy was primarily to show respect for Indigenous participation and it has become so complex that the original intent has been lost;
- While it is very important to engage and compensate marginalized communities, it may leave other participants feeling left out;
- The Policy should go to Council soon so that it can be phased in for Indigenous participants (such as Elders) first, and others later;
- The report was very well done and addresses a lot of what will come up;
- Grey areas of the Policy include, for example, age and how seniors can attend meetings if they are not comfortable taking public transit or walking to attend an evening meeting. These types of issues will be addressed as we move forward with the pilot;
- Currently, people sit on committees because they want to serve their community and have a passion for the subject matter of their committee; this may change if members start receiving compensation for participation;
- Compensation, which should be paid through the City's Finance or Human Resources Departments and not a non-profit organization, should remain under the amount that would require tax receipts and,
- Incremental steps in the pilot and feedback from other committees will be beneficial as we remember that the intent is to bring in new voices and address barriers to participation.

Councillor Puchmayr reiterated that the genesis of the Policy was to compensate Indigenous representatives. He noted that all of the City's advisory committees now have a position for Indigenous representation and shared that he would not support the Policy if it does not seek to pay Indigenous members on committees.

Councillor Das agreed that Councillor Puchmayr's comments need to be discussed further to determine what is and is not possible with our internal processes before it is sent back to Council.

**5. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**7. MOTION TO MOVE THE MEETING INTO THE CLOSED MEETING**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the Task Force will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to sections 90(1)(a) and (k) of the Community Charter:

(a) labour relations or other employee relations

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**8. END OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 2:04 p.m.

**9. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- March 7
- April 11
- May 13
- June 20
- July 15
- December 2

Certified correct,

Original Signed

---

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

CHAIR

Original Signed

---

Carilyn Cook

COMMITTEE CLERK