

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON RECONCILIATION, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT

September 21, 2020
Meeting held Electronically under Ministerial Order M192

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Cote
Councillor Chinu Das
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

REGRETS:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Lisa Spitale - Chief Administrative Officer

STAFF:

Blair Fryer - Manager, Communications and Economic Development
Jacque Killawee - City Clerk
Dean Gibson - Director of Park and Recreation
Rob McCullough - Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Jennifer Miller - Manager, Public Engagement
John Stark - Supervisor, Community Planning
Denise Tambellini - Manager, Intergovernmental Relations
Diana McDaniel - Inspector, New Westminster Police Department
Carilyn Cook - Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Dr. Pamela Stern - Associate Professor, Anthropology
Simon Fraser University

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Urgent/time sensitive matters only

1. MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the September 21, 2020 Reconciliation, Social Inclusion, and Engagement Task Force Agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Task Force present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural note: The Task Force agreed to address Item 4 – Presentation on Decolonizing Municipal Landmarks and Monuments Project prior to Item 3 – Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force Terms of Reference in order to accommodate guest presenter Dr. Pamela Stern, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Simon Fraser University.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the February 3, 2020 minutes of the Regular meeting of the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Task Force present voted in favour of the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force Terms of Reference

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, provided an outline of the Task Force's draft Terms of Reference (TOR).

Discussion ensued and members noted the importance of adopting the TOR to allow the Task Force to begin the equal commencement of work on reconciliation, social equity and inclusion, and the City's Public Engagement Strategy, acknowledging that work done on one would augment and benefit the others.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force recommends that the Terms of Reference be presented to Council for adoption.

CARRIED.

All members of the Task Force present voted in favour of the motion.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS FOR ACTION

4. Presentation on Decolonizing Municipal Landmarks and Monuments Project

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, and Dr. Pamela Stern, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, commenced with their presentation, which outlined project phases for decolonizing municipal landmarks and monuments.

Mr. McCullough advised that a number of City's monuments have military relations and place names which could be considered ethnically inappropriate; however, workshops will assist with the creation of the reconciliation policy and prepare residents for conversations around reconciliation to address these.

Dr. Stern shared that when monument is taken down, the full story of the history of the monument must be shared as some people may not yet understand due to the privilege of being a part of a majority community. She advised that, in approximately a year, a report will go to Council for their review and to garner public support and that she would like to return to the Committee at the November 23, 2020 meeting to continue work with the Task Force on this process.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were made:

- A larger perspective will determine how the City can move forward with things such as requests for street name changes, etc.;
- Residents must be assured that this will better reflect history, not erase it, so they do not feel that their rights are being infringed upon;
- The starting point of the conversation with residents should be the explanation of why the City is pursuing the reconciliation process;
- A report outlining the reason for the removal of the Begbie Statue would have been appropriate to provide people with something to refer to and, this should be part of the process moving forward;
- Without a good framework, we end up making individual decisions;
- Issues to be considered include the possible renaming of the Pattullo Bridge as it has a problematic history, and the relationship between McBride Boulevard and the Komagata Maru. If they are not addressed until the City develops a policy, it may appear as if we are postponing addressing them; however, the policy and these time sensitive issues could be addressed concurrently;
- To avoid future issues, things should not be named after individuals; and,
- An immediate communication strategy is needed to provide Councillors with context when asked about the appropriateness of street names, etc.; and,

5. Presentation on Reconciliation and Proposed Actions

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, commenced with his presentation which reviewed primary reconciliation actions and the proposed fall/winter work plan.

Mr. McCullough advised that Councillors will be able to refer enquiries about the City's reconciliation plan to the webpage for information as well as to the policy statement which will define what the City is doing with respect to reconciliation.

Task Force members noted the following in discussion:

- We should be proud to share this exciting and crucial work with the community;
- The work plan should go to Council as an update and to facilitate community understanding of the reconciliation process; and,
- We must be realistic and ensure that the work plan can be carried out correctly and that we have the funds to do so without raising expectations that we will not be able to meet.

6. Presentation on Social Inclusion and Proposed Actions

John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, commenced with his presentation which outlined various inclusion initiatives and advised that an inclusion work plan would be sent to Task Force members for review prior to the November 23, 2020 meeting.

In response to a question from a Task Force member, Jennifer Miller, Manager, Public Engagement, advised that the New West Think Lab Committee (NWTLC) was created in response to the City signing onto the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities with respect to post COVID-19 recovery. She noted that the NWTLC is comprised of staff from various departments who are working to put a New Westminster lens on the Declaration, as well as working alongside the City of West Vancouver on the Western Canada aspect of the Declaration, noting that a work plan would eventually be brought to Council for review.

In response to a question from a Task Force member, John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, confirmed that the City's inclusion process will be broadened to include newcomers to New Westminster and that staff have worked with the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition on the proposed actions.

Action Items:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Summary of Action | Disseminate work plan |
| Who is responsible | John Stark |
| When | Prior to November meeting |

7. Presentation on Engagement Strategy and Proposed Actions

Jennifer Miller, Manager, Public Engagement, commenced with her presentation which outlined the City’s Public Engagement Strategy, work done to date, and next steps, noting that a draft approach to engagement would be provided to Task Force members at the November 23, 2020 meeting.

Task Force members noted the following in discussion:

- A good part of the communication piece is letting people know the outcomes of public engagement and what feedback was received;
- Focus needs to be on what is relevant today and how that can be prioritized;
- Discussion of adequate staffing resources for public engagement is welcome to ensure transparency of staffing levels and the work outlined; and,
- It must be communicated that during public engagement the City receives varying feedback which may result in decisions that some residents may not agree with.

Action Items:

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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Summary of Action | Draft approach to engagement |
| Who is responsible | Jennifer Miller |
| When | For November meeting |

NEW BUSINESS

8. Development of Land Acknowledgement

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, advised that the City is looking at creating an inclusive land acknowledgment which would be humble and recognize that there is a lot we do not know with respect to land claims, and

requested input from the Task Force so that something could be prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

Task Force members noted the following in discussion:

- Use of a language group such as Halq'emeylem over the term Coast Salish, which some believe it is a reinforcement of colonialism, is preferred;
- Current advice from the Provincial Government is to use Coast Salish for land acknowledgements; however, New Westminster is complicated with many Indigenous land claims;
- A simple land acknowledgement may be the best direction to go in as it should not be the City's official assessment of land claims and could include wording indicating that we may not have all the right knowledge, keeping it somewhat fluid;
- Once a land acknowledgement is created, a report should go to Council with the reasoning behind the wording, even if it is temporary; and,
- Land acknowledgement training is an option for Council which would provide education on how to do an acknowledgement, why they matter, and how it may have relevance to the event that you are attending.

Mr. McCullough advised that next steps include taking some time to formulate language that the Task Force would support and then taking it to Council noting that, based on feedback from the Task Force, evolving language would be valued.

Action Items:

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|---------------------------|--|
| Summary of Action | Formulate language around land acknowledgement |
| Who is responsible | Rob McCullough |
| When | For November meeting |

9. Reconciliation, Social Inclusion, and Engagement Advisory Committee

- **Combining Multiculturalism, Seniors and Youth Advisory Committees**

It was noted that these Committees, along with the Restorative Justice Committee, would be merged in 2021; however, due to the pandemic and lack of committee meetings, their terms have been extended into 2021. As such, this item will be discussed at a future meeting.

10. Compensation Policy for Engagement with People with Lived Experience

Task Force members agreed that Jennifer Miller, Manager, Public Engagement, commence work on a draft compensation policy for engagement with people with lived experience. The draft policy will be presented to the Task Force for review prior to going to Council.

Action Items:

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|---------------------------|--|
| Summary of Action | Creation of draft compensation policy for engagement with people with lived experience |
| Who is responsible | Jennifer Miller |
| When | Undetermined |

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Task Force on Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement will occur on:

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|-----------|-------------------|
| Date: | November 23, 2020 |
| Time: | 9:00 a.m. |
| Location: | Via Zoom |

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Original Signed

Mayor Cote
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk