



**SOCIAL INCLUSION, ENGAGEMENT, AND RECONCILIATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022**  
**Electronic and in Council Chambers**  
**Lower Level, City Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Councilor Chinu Das	Chair
Tony Duong	Community Member
Frances Blake	Community Member*
Damian Durica	Community Member
Megumi Taguchi	Community Member
Natalie Johnston	Community Member*
Rozina Jaffer	Community Member
Vishal Jain	Community Member
Satnam Sangra	Community Member
Nate Batara	Community Member
Briana Harris	Community Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rob McCullough*	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, Office of the CAO*
Jennifer Miller*	Manager of Public Engagement, Office of the CAO*
John Stark*	Supervisor, Community Planning*
Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

\*Denotes electronic attendance

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

Councillor Das opened the meeting at 5:33 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.

**Procedural note:** Item 5.1 – Orientation and Oaths of Office was addressed prior to other agenda items.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

This was addressed during Item 5.1 Committee Orientation and Oaths of Office.

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the February 16, 2022 Social Inclusion, Engagement and Reconciliation Advisory Committee agenda be adopted noting that Item 5.4 – Komagata Maru Perimeter Trail and Dock Naming be addressed after Item 5.1 – Committee Orientation and Oaths of Office.

**CARRIED.**

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

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

**4.1 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Minutes of November 10, 2021**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the November 10, 2021 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee minutes be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED.**

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

## **4.2 Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes of November 18, 2021**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the November 18, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee minutes be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED.**

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

## **5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, commenced with her Legislative Services Committee Orientation PowerPoint presentation which included the role of advisory committees, the Terms of Reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies and freedom of information, and, lastly, Oaths of Office.

### **5.2 Welcome Centre: Increasing Public Awareness and Use**

John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, shared a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the background of the recently opened Welcome Centre located at New Westminster Secondary School. Mr. Stark requested ideas and suggestions from Committee members for ways to increase awareness of the Centre, particularly among newcomers without school age children.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark provided the following comments:

- The Welcome Centre opened in October of 2021 and now that the new Community Navigator has become familiar with things, information will be translated and shared on social media with the goal to launch a big campaign in March;
- Groups that staff hope to promote the Welcome Centre to include new immigrant men, those staying with family and friends, etc., so that people know the Centre is for everyone, not just parents;
- WINS has promoted the Welcome Centre through their networks; however, staff can reach out to other welcome centres to find out how they promoted their centres; and,
- It is a good idea to determine the best ways to reach each diverse population group as they may be different.

Discussion ensued, and Committee members provided the following Comments:

- Need to identify the various immigrant groups in New Westminster and where they gather so that translated information can be shared with them in their safe spaces;
- The Centre could be promoted at Douglas College, in the New Westminster Record, all social media, translated versions at public libraries, temples, churches and other faith agencies, Century House, elder care providers, and Lord Kelvin Elementary where many grandparents drop their grandkids off in the mornings;
- Committee members can share the information with their networks and seek advice and suggestions as to how or where else the information can be promoted;
- The Spirit of the Children Society, Qayqayt First Nation, and the North Fraser Metis Association would be able to provide suggestions on how to reach the Indigenous population; and,
- Connie Swan, the district Vice-Principal for Indigenous Education, would be able to share information with students.

### **5.3 Honoraria for Engagement Participation**

Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding nominal, non-taxable Honoraria for Engagement Participation for equity-seeking groups who participate in City-led engagement activities such as workshops, focus groups, interviews, etc.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Miller provided the following comments:

- Research of other cities has shown that some, such as Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Guelph, Ontario, have draft honoraria policies while others are doing it on an ad hoc basis;
- It is hoped that payments will be made in cash to avoid the barrier of participants having to cash cheques; however, cash payments may be tricky for a government institution to do;
- The honoraria would be paid for one-off sessions such as focus groups or workshops, not advisory committee positions;
- The suggested payment of \$50 for two hours is aimed to reduce barriers, not be an incentive for participation; and,

- Tokenism can look like one person being asked to represent a whole group of people or not implementing what is heard during feedback that has been requested.

Discussion ensued, and Committee members provide the following Comments:

- Motivations to provide feedback during engagement and sit on committees may change when honoraria or other financial rewards are introduced;
- Many of the same people participate in City engagement sessions and it is important to hear different voices to ensure social inclusion;
- A nominal honorarium may not sway someone to be on a committee or provide feedback but it is a respectful way to show appreciation for someone's time;
- Honoraria may reduce barriers experienced by those wishing to participate in public engagement such as by assisting single parents in paying for childcare or subsidizing someone who may have to take time off work without pay to participate;
- Confidential subsidy processes would be helpful so that people can privately apply for assistance so those participating in the same session would not know who is subsidized and who is not, allowing those who are subsidized to maintain their dignity; and,
- Not requiring people to prove who they are or that they are part of an equity seeking group will make it safer for those who wish to participate.

#### **5.4 Komagata Maru Perimeter Trail and Dock Naming**

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation which provided a brief background on the Komagata Maru and the Komagata Maru Interpretive Panel which will share the story of the ship and its passengers with those visiting the Komagata Maru Perimeter Trail and dock.

Councillor Das advised that as the passengers of the Komagata Maru were denied the freedom to dock and walk on the land, naming the perimeter trail and dock in honour of them is very fitting.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCullough provided the following comments:

- Next steps include the panel text going to the Community Heritage Commission for feedback and then to the Descendants of the Komagata

Maru Society for their review and approval. The panels will be coming back to the Committee for final approval and are anticipated to be installed in April of 2022; and,

- To learn more about the Komagata Maru, Committee members can visit the Simon Fraser University library website at [Komagata Maru - Continuing the Journey | SFU Digitized Collections](#) .

Discussion ensued, and Committee members provide the following Comments:

- Elements of the presentation should be included in the panel, which should not be too wordy;
- The narrative should be in an active voice, be more cohesive, and in a storytelling format;
- The current text does not share the degree of injustice that was experienced;
- This could be linked to other episodes in history with respect to racism and the non-acceptance of people in order to connect it to the bigger picture of the racist immigration policy that existed; and,
- The narrative is appreciated and it tells the story well in few words.

Committee members were invited to email additional comments to Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, who will compile and share them with Mr. McCullough at the end of the week.

## **5.5 Election of Alternate Chair**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the election of Alternate Chair be addressed at the next meeting of the Social Inclusion, Engagement and Reconciliation Advisory Committee meeting.

**CARRIED.**

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

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **7. END OF MEETING**

On MOTION, the meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

**8. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- April 20
- June 15
- Sept 14
- December 14

Certified correct,

Original Signed  
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Councillor Chinu Das

Original Signed  
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Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk