

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

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Electronic and in Meeting Room G

Lower Level, City Hall

PRESENT:

Councillor Chinu Das	Chair
Nate Batara	Community Member
Frances Blake	Community Member
Tony Duong*	Community Member
Damian Durica*	Community Member
Briana Harris	Alternate Chair/Community Member
Rozina Jaffer	Community Member
Natalie Johnston	Community Member
Nicole Maine	Community Member

ABSENT:

Vishal Jain	Community Member
Satnam Sangra	Community Member
Megumi Taguchi	Community Member
Ruth Weller	Representative from a Local Indigenous Support Organization

GUEST:

Jasmindra Jawanda*	Urban/Community Planner & Anti-Racism Facilitator
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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
Christina Coolidge*	Indigenous Relations Advisor
Silisha Ali*	Program Coordinator, Youth
Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Das opened the meeting at 5:30 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. INTRODUCTIONS

John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, introduced himself and shared a bit about his role with the City.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 April 20, 2022

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the April 20, 2022 Social Inclusion, Engagement, and Reconciliation Advisory Committee minutes be adopted with the addition of Nicole Maine as having attended the meeting.

CARRIED.

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

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Anti-Racism Projects - Guest: Jasmindra Jawanda

Jasmindra Jawanda, Urban/Community Planner & Anti-Racism Facilitator, introduced herself and shared a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Rising Up!" which outlined the feedback received during the community engagement phase of the Rising Up! Project where cultural, faith, and Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour (IBPOC) communities in New Westminster shared their thoughts and experiences on racism and hate.

Councillor Das thanked Ms. Jawandra her for the presentation and acknowledged that, while this is an uncomfortable discussion, it is a conversation that must take place.

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

- While it is important to include groups in festivals so that they are multicultural events, it is just as important for groups to have their own, culture-specific events so that they do not feel underrepresented, unseen, and as if they do not belong in the community; and,
- Many IBPOC and international students spoke out during the engagement process indicating that issues need to be identified so that the government and other federal funders can provide assistance.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following comments:

- While the City of Toronto's Chief of Police has publically acknowledged and apologized that Indigenous people are over represented in the criminal justice system in response to the Toronto Police Service's (TPS) 2020 Race-Based Data Collection Strategy findings which showed years of systemic racism by the (TPS), there needs to be action to address the issue. Aggregated data would be helpful to facilitate moving forward;
- Racism continues but is much more subtle than it was decades ago;
- There has been an evolution in New Westminister over the past 30 years during which the City has come a long way and now has a much broader sense of community; however, some groups still do not feel like they belong;
- The anti-racism report and presentation can be delved into to help the City become more inclusive;
- Upon graduation, international students do not get the support that immigrants do such as Employment Insurance, etc., and that must be addressed; and,
- In many societies women still often get paid less than men for the same job; however, that may change once companies have to disclose what they pay and cannot justify the discrepancy.

Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisory, shared that since she started working with the City, she has been speaking a lot about what whiteness is, unconscious bias, etc., and noted that she will soon be spending a week with the New Westminister Police Department and would like to share Ms. Jawandra's presentation with them. Ms. Coolidge and Ms. Jawandra agreed to continue their discussion after the meeting.

5.2 Public Engagement Community Outreach Plans for Summer 2022

Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City's public engagement summer outreach plans. She shared that the goal of the summer outreach will be to connect with those who do not generally participate in public engagement by visiting community hubs and gathering spots throughout the City that do not usually see public engagement outreach.

Ms. Miller asked the Committee what locations they would suggest that the City visit for public engagement and where the community hubs and gathering spots in their neighbourhoods were located. She received the following feedback:

- Parks such as Moody Park, Queen's Park (including the skate park), Grimston Park, Tipperary Park, and Simcoe Park;
- It was noted that Moody Park may be an especially good place to seek feedback during sunny days as there are many apartments, vulnerable populations, and generally a multitude of cultural groups who picnic there;
- The Steel & Oak Brewing Company which has a large client base;
- The Connaught Heights pollinator garden;
- Connect with Resident Association Presidents;
- Massey Victory Heights, Victoria Hill, Queensborough;
- Schools;
- The Russel House shelter and the Salvation Army Thrift Store to hear from the unsheltered community;
- The Newcomers Festival;
- Century House and Royal City Centre, especially in the food court at lunchtime as it is a popular destination for youth; and,
- The Don't Go Hungry Program in Queensborough and All of the Food.

Other suggestions included:

- Time of day matters. Visiting parks after school may be a good option; and,
- Look at Statistics Canada data to determine where the population growth is, including for newcomers, and visit those areas to introduce the City.

At the suggestion of providing handouts to be shared with the various communities and residential buildings, Ms. Miller shared "Help Shape Your City" postcards with Committee members for them to share with their networks.

5.3 Summer Youth Events

Silisha Ali, Youth Program Coordinator, announced the following youth events that would be taking place over the summer, many of which are included in the \$20 Youth Membership Pass, including but not limited to:

- A DJ program which has been running for 15 years;
- Art in the Park on Wednesdays in July;
- The gym and Poplar Island Room at the Queensborough Community Centre for youth to remain active;
- Babysitter Boot Camp;
- Youth adventure camp;
- Meal Masters: a food prep and catering program leading to intergenerational programming;
- Bike New West;
- Pier Park take over every other Friday with a DJ, games, etc.; and,
- Skate jams in Queen's Park.

Ms. Ali encouraged Committee members to visit the Youth Services website at www.newwestyouth.ca for further information.

5.4 Komagata Maru Plaque and Recognition Update

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, advised that the plaque was rewritten based on feedback received from the Committee at the February 16, 2022 meeting. He advised that a translator is currently being sought for the plaque; however, the Gurdwara is able to provide translation but not in the near future due to other commitments. Work continues with the Parks and Recreation Department with respect to the replacement of signs for the renaming the River Walk, although things are taking longer than anticipated.

At the suggestion of John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, Mr. McCullough agreed to contact MOSIAC about translation for the plaque as Mr. Stark advised that they had previously provided translation services for the City with respect to the Chinese reconciliation process. It was noted that MOSAIC may also be able to provide a graphic artist for the project.

Mr. McCullough shared that it is anticipated that the plaque will be complete in the next six to eight weeks.

5.5 National Indigenous Day

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, announced that a committee of community members which included the Qayqayt First Nation and the Spirit of the Children Society planned the National Indigenous Day celebration to be held at Moody Park on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. He advised that the celebrations would start at 10:30 a.m. with opening remarks and that the day would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Performances over a number of stages, including:
 - Star Child for powwow performances;
 - A hoop dancer;
 - Bear dancers;
 - A Metis fiddler and jigging;
 - The Squamish Ocean Canoe Family; and,
 - The Bingo Switch Band.
- Vendor tents;
- Free bannock; and,
- The Metro Vancouver water wagon to lessen the need for plastic water bottles.

Mr. McCullough advised that Moody Park is a very central location which is close to schools and transit and that festivities would be taking place during the day so as to not compete with the evening events being hosted by other municipalities.

Discussion ensued and Committee members stated that they were looking forward to the celebration and are excited to see festivals returning to Moody Park.

5.6 Newcomers Festival

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, announced the upcoming Newcomers Festival which will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at the new Welcome Centre that is located at New Westminster Secondary School. She shared the following information about the event:

- The annual event saw attendance of over 300 community members prior to it being put on hold due to the pandemic;
- Councillor Das will emcee the event and Peter Julian, Member of Parliament is expected to attend;
- Currently, 18 organizations have signed up to participate and will host information tables, displays, and some interactive activities;

- There will be three to four entertainment performances and, possibly, an Indigenous storyteller;
- There will be an arts and crafts area for art workshops; and,
- Light food and refreshments will be offered to visitors.

John Stark, Supervisor, Community Planning, shared that, while he did not have the most recent statistics, between 2011 and 2016 close to 80 percent of the population growth was due to new immigrants.

Councillor Das advised all of the discussions about upcoming events and people getting together brought to mind the documentary called, “All the Lonely People” for which she had recently attended a screening. She shared that the movie highlighted that feelings of loneliness can happen to anyone regardless of age or cultures, and addressed how to become more resilient when you do start to feel lonely.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following comments:

- The movie was very touching and is highly recommended;
- Loneliness may be experienced for a variety of reasons and during various stages of life such as after the birth of child, losing a partner, retirement, health issues, etc.;
- Redefining and adjusting how we see ourselves after major life phases such as retirement may help people feel less lonely; and,
- Being surrounded by people does not necessarily mean someone is not lonely.

Committee members discussed the possibility of having a special meeting to watch and discuss the documentary.

Prior to the end of the meeting, Councillor Das announced that today, June 15, 2022 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and acknowledged that much abuse is hidden and seniors keep quiet about it.

Councillor Das also shared that Monday, June 20, 2022 would be World Refugee Day with events taking place across the Lower Mainland.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Briana Harris be appointed as the Alternate Chair for the Social Inclusion, Engagement, and Reconciliation Advisory Committee for the 2022 term of the Committee.

CARRIED.

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. END OF MEETING

On MOTION, the meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

- Sept 14
- December 14

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Chinu Das

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk