



## **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**January 28, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Oak Room, Century House**

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Christine Mendoza	- Co-Chair
Yolanda Calderon	- Co-Chair
Yasmeen Alghreibawi	- NWSS Representative
Bianca Blackwell	- NWSS Representative
Tyller Cordoviz	- NWSS Representative
Lina Dockman	- NWSS Representative
Amy Frost	- NWSS Representative
Lindsay Gesner	- NWSS Representative
Alex Hatch	- NWSS Representative
Simran Jagpal	- NWSS Representative
Raunaq Singh	- Member at large
Marissa Smith	- NWSS Representative
Giselle Whittaker	- NWSS Representative (arrived at 5:15 p.m.)
Ian Zhou	- Connaught Heights Elementary School

#### **VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Elena Kuzma	- NWSS Representative
Kayoko Mayede	- NWSS Representative

#### **NON VOTING ADVISORS PRESENT:**

Heather Lynch	- District Parent Advisory Committee Representative
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#### **NON VOTING ADVISORS REGRETS:**

Patrick Johnstone	- City Council
Karon Trenaman	- ICBC Representative

#### **GUESTS:**

Mayor Jonathan Coté	- Mayor (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)
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#### **STAFF:**

Robyn McGuinness	- Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
Ryan Weber	- Youth Services Coordinator
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

## **1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Item 5.3 Youth Center Official Name and Sign Location

The following items were removed from the agenda:

- Item 6.1 ICBC Representative Report- Karon Trenaman; and,
- Item 6.2 District Parent Advisory Committee Report – Heather Lynch

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 26, 2015**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the November 26, 2015 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Youth Advisory Committee 2015/2016 Goals**

Yolanda Calderon, Co-Chair, summarized the Youth Committee's past discussion regarding possible topics of interest and goals for the 2016 term.

In addition to the items noted at the November 26, 2015 meeting, the Committee provided the following suggestions:

- A monthly themed evening could be implemented in the community to connect those with similar backgrounds and encourage others to experience new cultures and events;
- It was suggested that the event be a multi-cultural potluck;

- New Westminster Secondary School currently has a cultural club that could partner with the Youth Advisory Committee on the event; and,
- Century House and the Anvil Centre were both suggested as possible locations for the event.

Ryan Weber, Youth Services Coordinator, explained that Century House currently has a multicultural event for seniors in the community, and suggested that the Committee could partner with the seniors event. If the event is intended to be youth-specific, the Committee could acquire details regarding the steps required to host a similar event.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 The Canada Games Pool replacement project**

Ryan Weber, Youth Services Coordinator, initiated a discussion on the Canada Games Pool replacement project. Mayor Coté encouraged members to voice their opinions regarding amenities they would like to see included with the project.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It was suggested that the fitness centre be expanded, and that an area be designated strictly for women;
- The fitness area could be separated from the swimming area to reduce the smell of chlorine;
- A games room could be implemented to create a sense of community for youth in the area (pool tables, ping pong tables etc.);
- Installing additional windows could provide more natural light for the building;
- Creating a more open design could prevent overcrowding in certain areas;
- It was suggested that one pool be designated specifically for recreational purposes;
- An interest was expressed in having a portion of the Canada Games Pool outdoors; and,
- The Coquitlam Wave Pool and Edmonds Centre were both suggested as examples of well-liked facilities in the lower mainland.

Mayor Coté advised that the first phase of the project would be the pool replacement project, followed by the implementation of the Community Centre in phase two.

## 5.2 New Westminster Street Festivals

Ryan Weber, Youth Services Coordinator, initiated a discussion regarding Street Festivals in New Westminster. Mr. Weber enquired which events the Committee attended and how these events could be improved.

In response to Mr. Weber's question, the Committee provided the following comments:

- The Food Truck Festival was a fun event for the community;
- It was suggested that next year the event consider a 'food truck passport' which would allow visitors the opportunity to sample several of the food trucks at a standard price;
- An online map could help people better navigate the Food Truck Festival;
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Street music festival attracts attention to local shops and is a good way to experience different types of music; and,
- The Youth Services Sun Down Festival at Pier Park was also suggested as an example of City festivals attended by youth members in the community.

## 5.3 Youth Center Sign Location

**Procedural Note:** This item was discussed with Item 6.3

# 6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

## 6.1 ICBC Representative Report

This item was removed from the agenda.

## 6.2 District Parent Advisory Committee Report

This item was removed from the agenda.

## 6.3 Youth Coordinator's Report

Ryan Weber, Youth Services Coordinator, reported the following information:

- Youth Services hosted a turkey dinner and a Secret Santa gift exchange on December 19, 2015;
- Youth Services attendance levels increased during exam times in December; and,
- Modified hours during the Christmas break were implemented.

Mr. Weber initiated a discussion regarding the Youth Center. Mr. Weber explained that the name, New West Youth Center, had been chosen by the community in 2012. Signage for the building was discussed, however, a location was never finalized.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following suggestions:

- The sign could be implemented above the center door;
- Having the sign visible from Moody Park could be beneficial;
- It was suggested that individual letters be added to the building, rather than a large sign;
- The sign should be bold and easily visible;
- The sign should not block the windows or prevent natural light from entering into building;
- For safety reasons, the light being cast out from the building into the park should not be reduced;
- Implementing the sign or lettering on the far left side of the back of the building was suggested;
- More prominent signage for the Youth Center off 8<sup>th</sup> Street could also be beneficial; and,
- An index for Moody Park could be useful to better indicate the location of Century House and the Youth Center.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council approve New West Youth Center as the name for the Youth Center; and,*

*THAT Council approve the implementation of the sign on the side of the Youth Center building.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council consider additional signage for the New West Youth Center and Century House in the Moody Park area.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 6.4 Member Reports

Giselle Whittaker, NWSS Representative, expressed concerns regarding Moody Park at night. Overgrown trees in the area towards 10<sup>th</sup> Street could cause safety concerns for youths walking in the park at night. Lighting in the park seems intermittent, and could be improved by Council.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Lighting in some busy portions of New Westminster (such as Sixth Street) is sufficient, but there could be improvements made in smaller areas;
- Creating additional lighting in some areas could attract more people and could potentially increase the crime rate in that area; and,
- The benefits and disadvantages over City lighting could be an item added to the agenda for a future Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

Yolanda Calderon , Co-Chair, advised that she had attended a meeting at the end of December regarding the procedures for welcoming Syrian refugees into New Westminster. Youth members could be involved through volunteering at the Immigration Settlement Services (ISS).

Lindsay Gesner, NWSS Representative, advised that the Immigration Settlement Services (ISS) is also looking for buddies for youth immigrating into New Westminster, and that anyone interested should contact the ISS.

Simran Jagpal, NWSS Representative, expressed concerns regarding the presence of drug related activity at the sky train station hubs in New Westminster.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A stronger police presence in the area was suggested; however, concerns were raised if that presence would only move the problem to an alternate location;
- Cameras in bus shelters and a more visible staff presence from TransLink could help residents feel safer at nights; and,
- It was suggested that the focus be shifted from moving these individuals to how we can help people get off the streets and improve shelter situations.

Mayor Coté advised the Committee that the City of New Westminster had implemented a 'Homeless First Strategy' a decade ago, which works to provide permanent housing opportunities for those living on the streets. While shelters offer a more emergent response, long term housing is the ultimate goal. Organizations such as the Look Out Society have been working to build relationships and trust with people on the street and provide them with better housing opportunities for the future.

Ryan Weber, Youth Coordinator, reported that Youth Services is now accepting applications for the Youth Firefighter Program. The program provides training for fire safety at home, and also simulates a live fire situations for students to experience. Applications are available at the Youth Center, New Westminster Secondary School, and the Communications Center, and the deadline to apply is February 12, 2016.

#### **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

#### **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Oak Room, Century House**

#### **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION,** The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Certified Correct,

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**Yolanda Calderon**  
**Co-Chair**

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**Debbie Johnstone**  
**Committee Clerk**