



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC)

**February 28, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.
Oak Room, Century House**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maggie Chen, Co-Chair	- NWSS Representative
Nelson Roy, Co-Chair	- NWSS Representative
Shawn Lichtmann	- NWSS Representative
Keona Lighthall	- NWSS Representative
Julie Mosi	- NWSS Representative
Chris Sharma	- NWSS Representative
Mark Tabangay	- Glenbrook Middle School
Selena Uppal	- NWSS Representative

NON-VOTING ADVISORS PRESENT:

Councillor Nakagawa	- City Council Representative
Bruce Cunnings	- SD#40 Representative

NON-VOTING ADVISORS REGRETS:

Karon Trenaman	- ICBC Representative
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STAFF PRESENT:

Robyn McGuinness	- Manager, Seniors & Youth Services
Kim Deighton	- Manager, Licensing and Integrated Services
Erika Mashig	- Manager, Arboriculture, Horticulture Parks & Open Space Planning
Mason Mellor	- Youth Services Worker
Gurtej Tung	- Engineering Outreach Coordinator
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

1.1 Additions to and adoption of the Agenda of February 28, 2019

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the February 28, 2019 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted noting that Presentation Item 3.4 – Parklets, would be addressed first.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 22, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the November 22, 2018 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted with the amendment of Item 8 – Next Meeting Date start time to be changed from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Ice Breaker – Mason Mellor, Youth Services Worker

Mason Mellor, Youth Services Worker, commenced with the Ice Breaker, and a conversation starter card was selected by Maggie Chen, Co-Chair, which asked the question, “Who do you think you will be friends with in 10 years?” The group provided the following answers: siblings, close high school friends, pet companions, new friends soon to be met in university/college, neighbours who are like family, daughters and sons who are transitioning to adulthood, travel companions, co-workers, and early childhood friends.

3.2 Youth Engagement Program – Gurtej Tung, Engineering Outreach Coordinator (see Item 6.5)

Gurtej Tung, Engineering Outreach Coordinator, provided a brief presentation update of the New West City 101 Youth Engagement Program.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following suggestions:

- Channels that can be used to reach youth could include:
 - Daily morning school announcements, word of mouth, and posting notices on the school bulletin board, the Starbucks on 6th Street, parks, and other places that youth hang out;
 - Teachers could make announcements during the first block of the day;

- School counsellors could share the information with their Facebook groups;
- Recruit a volunteer youth to create a Facebook page and who can follow people on Instagram and provide updates; and,
- Partner with another organization seeking youth feedback and host a dual workshop.
- A challenge to overcome with enrolment may be that the school is so large that it may be difficult to find an effective way to reach all students;
- Opportunities and messaging to encourage enrolment could include:
 - Incentives such as free pizza at workshops, tours of City Hall, etc.;
 - Messaging needs to appeal to kids and stand out from other youth activities; and,
 - Clarify what students would be doing, what the vision and goals are.

Procedural note: Presentation Item 3.1 Ice Breaker was addressed at this time.

3.3 Cannabis Legalization & Bylaw Enforcement – Kim Deighton, Manager Licensing and Integrated Services

Kim Deighton, Manager, Licensing & Integrated Services, commenced with her presentation advising the Committee that she would be addressing smoking and vaping bylaws in New Westminster.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Deighton provided the following information:

- Bylaw enforcement varies with each municipality and New Westminster Bylaw Officers focus primarily on property bylaw infractions;
- Currently, New Westminster bylaw officers are not trained to use NARCAN® in response to opioid overdoses; and,
- Smoking bylaws are difficult to enforce as those violating the bylaws are usually finished smoking or vaping by the time a bylaw officer arrives.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- TransLink officers should be patrolling bus stops to crackdown on smoking and vaping during peak hours;
- More education is needed on the smoking bylaws (e.g. how far away to stand from a doorway, etc.); and,
- Most students do not know the bylaws or what the fines are for bylaw infractions.

3.4 Parklets – Erika Mashig, Manager, Arboriculture, Horticulture, Parks & Open Space Planning

Erika Mashig, Manager, Arboriculture, Horticulture, Parks & Open Space Planning, commenced with her presentation during which she shared that some of the parklets she assisted in designing and building in Vancouver were inspired by old-fashioned wooden hot tubs, food takeout containers, and the old corduroy roads that used to run through Vancouver. The first parklet in New Westminster was installed in 2015 in Sapperton, followed by the installation of a parklet in Uptown on Belmont Street in 2016, which has proved to be extremely popular. In 2017, a parklet made out of reclaimed wood from a tree that had fallen in Queen's Park was installed on Front Street and has been found to be very popular during the Friday's on Front events. It was also noted that Mayor Cote donated his parking space at City Hall for the installation of a parklet.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Mashig provided the following information:

- A City-led parklet design competition is a great idea;
- The City budgets approximately \$10K to \$15K per parklet;
- The goal is to build one parklet per year with the next one being in the Brow of Hill area of the City;
- The Youth Advisory Committee would be welcome to assist in the design, etc., of a parklet for the City; however, it would first have to go to Council for approval by way of a recommendation from the Committee;
- Through the City's BridgeNet initiative, Wi-Fi should soon be available everywhere in the City, including at all parklets;
- Considerations taken for design and placement of parklets include:
 - Location near retailers that lend themselves to bringing food/drink purchases outside;
 - Sun and shade cover;
 - Proximity to parking stalls and residences;
 - Use of durable, locally-sourced cedar;
 - Recycling items when possible;
 - Providing space where there may not be a park nearby;
 - Ensuring universal accessibility;
 - Furniture should be playful and family friendly; and,
 - Avoidance of high-traffic streets;
- Parklet locations are vetted through the City's Transportation Department;
- Public space is for everyone to enjoy and one does not have to purchase something in order to sit and enjoy a parklet;
- It is easiest to install a parklet on a flat space; however, there are examples of parklets on slopes such as the tiered one on Fourth Street in Vancouver.

A Committee member suggested installing parklets along the River in Queensborough, as well as providing coverage for existing riverside seating so they can be utilized during and after a rainfall.

Ms. Mashing also reminded members of the proposed Riverfront Park, advising the group that the City is looking for ideas for the park and seeking input from the City's younger residents. Survey handouts were supplied to committee members to be filled out and returned to Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors & Youth Services.

A Committee member stated that as increased foot traffic will bring even more garbage to the area, additional garbage and recycling containers should be made available to discourage people from throwing their refuse in the river.

Procedural note: Presentation Item 3.2 Youth Engagement Program was addressed at this time.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Council Report – Councillor Nakagawa

Councillor Nakagawa shared recent changes to the City's bylaws with respect to renovictions which includes a series of fines for those who renovict tenants and which could ultimately result in the landlord's business license being revoked with continued bylaw violations.

In response to a question from a Committee member, Councillor Nakagawa shared that research shows that narrower streets are safer and that there could be other issues at play with respect to issues surrounding certain medians in Queensborough and which may need to be looked into further.

6.2 ICBC Representative Report – Karon Trenaman, ICBC Representative – No report was provided

6.3 SD40 Representative Report – Bruce Cunnings, SD #40 Representative

Mr. Cunnings announced that School District #40 will be conducting a comprehensive review of how special needs kids from kindergarten to grade 12 are taken care of within the District.

With respect to literacy, Mr. Cunnings shared that the District has funding to finance literacy programs but needs to determine where to invest that will show an improvement in student learning.

6.4 Youth Coordinator’s Report – Mason Mellor, Youth Services Worker

Mr. Mellor announced that Mayor Cote proclaimed this week as Anti-Bullying week at the Monday, February 25th Council meeting, and shared that Parks and Recreation staff created an anti-bullying video which can be viewed on the City’s Facebook page and Instagram.

This year, Youth Week will kick off on May 1st with a barbeque and include events throughout the week such as the New West Youth Awards, Youth Centre Mural Project, NRPD Youth Basketball Classic, and the Youth Dance. Mr. Mellor stated that youth are encouraged to attend an upcoming Council meeting for the official proclamation of Youth Week and those interested in attending that and/or taking part in Youth Week events should get in touch with Paolo Zenone, Recreation Leader.

6.5 Youth Engagement Program – Gurtej Tung, Engineering Outreach Coordinator (see Item 3.2)

6.6 Member Reports – Committee Members

A roundtable update took place with members sharing updates including being accepted into Douglas College and the University of British Columbia, being waitlisted to attend New York University, playing a solo during a jazz concert, teaching first aid to kids aged 9 to 12, playing in a soccer tournament, officiating premiere league soccer games, hosting the last business conference of the school year, seeing *How to Train Your Dragon 3*, and applying to the IB program.

7.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. – Oak Room, Century House

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed
Maggie Chen
Co-Chair

Original Signed
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk