



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC)

May 20, 2021

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and
the current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Julia Mosi | - Chair/NWSS Representative |
| Tony Jiang | - NWSS Representative |
| Shawn Lichtmann | - NWSS Representative |
| Roshaad Rodney | - NWSS Representative |
| Nelson Roy | - NWSS Representative |

NON-VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Jacque Killawee | - City Clerk |
| Jennifer Miller | - Manager, Public Engagement |
| Jay Young | - Manager, Recreation Services |
| Silisha Ali | - Youth Services Coordinator |
| Nicole Ludwig | - Assistant City Clerk |
| Carilyn Cook | - Committee Clerk |

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda of May 20, 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the May 20, 2021 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of January 21, 2021

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 21, 2021 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Ice Breaker

Silisha Ali, Youth Services Coordinator, asked Committee members to share what their summer plans are and, since this is the last meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee, members were also asked to share something positive they have experienced or learned by being a member of the Committee. Responses included:

Summer Plans

- Camping and basking in the sun;
- Working at the Pedalheads Summer Camp teaching kids how to cycle;
- Working as an apprentice plumber;
- May go to Oliver, B.C., or Alberta if Public Health Orders allow;
- Getting back into shape to play college basketball;
- Currently quarantining in China to visit family and will stay the summer;
- Visit Vancouver Island; and ,
- Relax before starting university.

A Positive Experience or Learning From the Youth Advisory Committee

- Inspirational to be around young people who are engaged in their community and government;
- Learning about the other Committee members, sharing experiences and opinions;
- Learning about the community, new developments in the city, and finding solutions to problems;
- Seeing how the city works and having a voice;
- Having the opportunity to serve the community and work alongside peers, make the lives of community members better by voicing the concerns of community members;

- Being able to provide feedback and constructive criticism on community issues;
- Learning how to chair a meeting and having a chance to do so;
- Becoming more outgoing as a result of sitting on the Committee; and,
- Instilled a deeper desire to continue with public service and go on to study political science.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Engaging Youth in City Processes

Jennifer Miller, Manager, Public Engagement, provided a presentation on public engagement and explained that the goal is to listen with purpose in order to receive input that will influence decision-making. She outlined the various way that the City of New Westminster has facilitated public engagement including through advisory committees and the City's new Be Heard online platform.

In response to Ms. Miller's questions as to how the City can reach and engage youth, include more youth voices in ongoing and project based engagement, and make engagement fun, Committee members provide the following suggestions:

- Provide incentives such as prizes, food, movie nights, etc., to engage a variety of youth of all ages as it is usually the same people providing the same opinions;
- Go directly to youth by attending youth-oriented events such as Youth Week happenings to let them know that public engagement participation is another way to share their voice with council;
- Encourage youth to participate in public engagement through social media and assure them that their input does matter to staff and Council and will influence outcomes and Council's decision making;
- Make attending public engagement events convenient by offering both in-person and online options;
- Livestream events on Instagram so people can provide input in real time;
- In-person engagement may be more appealing to those who do not usually participate in politics or city-led initiatives online;
- Encourage teens to spread news and information on their own social media platforms;

- Highlighting the achievements and accomplishments of youth in the community through articles in the New Westminster Record or on social media will show that younger voices are important and make a difference;
- Let teens know that they will be able to make a difference on city committees;
- Strive to get kids involved in city engagement prior to high school by reaching out to those in grades six, seven, and eight; and,
- Social media platforms that teens are accessible on include TikTok, and Instagram.

Ms. Miller acknowledged the importance of providing follow up results for surveys, etc., to the community after public engagement has taken place, and noted that she would like to continue to work with Committee members on how to spread the word on specific public engagement items.

Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, guided Committee members through the advisory committee process and stressed the importance of having committees that are comprised of people of varying ages and experiences in order to ensure diversity and inclusion.

In response to Ms. Killawee's questions with respect to how to best recruit youth to city committees and have committees that provide youth with a positive experience, Committee members provide the following suggestions:

- Advertise committees through the various social media platforms and at schools via flyers in the front office, on information/announcement boards, and through counsellors who may best know which students would be most interested and suitable to sit on a committee;
- Enlist Youth Services to help spread the word on committees;
- Contact student clubs at schools as their executive generally manage their social media accounts;
- Message school clubs that have public social media accounts so that their followers see the information; and,
- At the high school, contact the Student Voice Club, the Student Leadership Council, and teacher Christine McNulty who oversees all of the clubs.
- Appoint several youth to a committee to provide comfort and a feeling of support;
- Provide training on Roberts's Rules of Order, etc.;
- Set something up at schools or Youth Services to facilitate like-minded youth meeting up; and,
- Make the Alternate Chair training less intimidating for youth by having more icebreakers at the beginning of the session so they are more familiar and comfortable with adults who are also in the training session.

Ms. Killawee urged Committee members to apply to sit on one of the City's advisory committees, noting that a lot of positions open up in September and that, currently, there is a space open on the Arts Commission and that recruitment for the City's three grant committees is underway.

Julia Mosi, Tony Jiang, and Nelson Roy expressed interest in participating in a special workshop regarding the city budget.

Committee members were encouraged to contact Ms. Miller or Ms. Killawee if they had any additional questions and/or comments.

Ms. Killawee shared that in recognition of their work on the Youth Advisory Committee, members would be receiving a thank you letter from the Mayor along with a city pin.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Council Report

No report was provided.

6.2 Youth Coordinator's Report

Silisha Ali, Youth Services Coordinator, advised of the following:

- Youth Services will be creating a leadership committee for Youth Services and the Youth Centre with the goal to have the committee combined with seniors as both groups share the facility. Committee members were urged to help spread the word as youth engagement continues to be challenging with changing health orders;
- Podcasting equipment is available for those who wish to produce a podcast which Julia Mosi, Chair/Committee member has recently done; and,
- More outreach with respect to youth recreation will be conducted over the summer.

Ms. Ali thanked Committee members for participating on the Committee over the years and shared how great it was to work with them.

6.3 BC Youth Parliament

Julia Mosi, Chair/Committee Member, shared a presentation with Committee members which outlined the different streams of the BC Youth Parliament which

include session, regional youth parliaments, service, fundraising, and Camp Phoenix.

6.4 Member Reports

Members provided the following announcements on their recent and upcoming activities and accomplishments:

- Will start Simon Fraser University’s human geography program in September;
- Attended Council meetings to participate in proclamations for Youth Week and Anti-Bullying Day;
- Completed a Capstone Project which included creating a scramble crosswalk in New Westminster;
- Working on a Capstone Project on youth engagement;
- Redesigned the Georgia Viaduct for Planning class;
- To start a new job with Pedalheads to teach kids trail riding in Mundy Park;
- Finished first year of university and college which is a big accomplishment given the pandemic;
- Currently in China for the summer after two years away;
- Learned a second computer program language;
- Turned 18 years old yesterday;
- May take political science at Simon Fraser University; and,
- Getting a vaccine soon.

Members expressed their gratitude for being able to serve on the Committee.

7.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

This is the last scheduled meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed

Julia Mosi
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk