

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair
Simin Ahmadian
Adrienne Ahn
Carolina Echeverri
Honore Gbedze
Ann Johannes
Andrea Kwasnicki
Iris Sun
Zahra Zaker

REGRETS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
Mehraban (Maz) Farhoodi
Priti Shah

ABSENT: Pamela Garcia

STAFF: Andrew Merrill, Director Development Services
Tiina Mack, Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning
Chris Siddaway, A/Community Partnerships and Policy Manager
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

Councillor Towner assumed the role of Chair, noting that Councillor Mandewo had provided her regrets.

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions

The Chair welcomed the new and returning members and the Committee and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

The Committee congratulated the Director Development Services on his recent promotion and he provided a brief verbal update regarding staffing changes within the Community Planning Division.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 27, 2019

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Northeast Community Recreation Centre Concept Design - Presentation

The Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning provided an on-screen presentation regarding the concept design of the Northeast Community Centre, utilizing slides titled as follows:

- Northeast Community Centre Update
- Purpose
- Presentation Content
- 1 Background
- 2016 Population / 2026 Projected Population
- The Site
- New Centre / Commercial Store
- 2 Survey Results
- Survey Results in Potential Ideas for Centre Design
- Survey Results in Potential Ideas for Centre Design (Cont'd)
- 3 Expanded Engagement
- Community Stakeholder Meetings – Winter/Spring 2020
- 4 Site and Fit
- A/B
- 5 Innovative Ideas
- Edmonds Community Centre – Burnaby
- The Shipyards – City of North Vancouver
- Hollyburn Country Club – West Vancouver
- Clayton Community Centre – Surrey
- Aaniin Community Centre – Markham Ontario
- The Pavilion – Bend, OR USA
- Brunco Town Hall & community Ctr – Bruno, Czech Republic
- Towada Community Centre – Towado, Japan
- Streetmekka – Aalborg, Denmark
- Turanga Library – Christchurch, New Zealand
- Discussion
- Timeline/Next Steps
- Timeline

Documents titled “Northeast Community Centre Community Survey Key Findings” and “NE Community Centre Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Presentation and Discussion” were

circulated on-table.

The Committee considered the following focused questions:

- What do you think are the current challenges facing NE community members with regard to accessing wellness and culture needs?
- What do you believe are the top 3 needs for community centre programming from a multicultural perspective, in Northeast Coquitlam?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The possibility of staff teaming up with Library Link to engage with participants attending events at the Smiling Creek Activity Centre
- The proximity of the proposed new facility to the Burke Mountain Fire Hall and local schools planned for in the northeast area
- The desire to incorporate green design technologies within the facility to reduce its carbon footprint
- The belief that the current challenges facing northeast community members are having to travel and the need for a safe place for youth
- The desire for community members' children to have a local place to experience the culture of their heritage outside the home
- The belief that teenagers and youth require greater entertainment opportunities and the availability of those opportunities immediately following school hours is crucial for working parents
- The desire for additional drop-in programs and increased hours for children and youth at existing City facilities
- The belief that the proposed facility will need to be vibrant, interesting and multi-functional so that it appeals to all ages
- The belief that there is not enough current library space in the City to meet the current needs of residents
- Some of the challenges of finding good public swim times versus pool reservations
- The belief that affordable youth recreation and entertainment programming is vital for parents
- The desire that the indoor winter programming for seniors mimic what is available during the summer months
- The observation that newcomers can find it challenging to adapt to their new community if they do not speak English
- The opportunities offered to newcomers through SHARE's English practice groups and the information available on the Coquitlam Public Library website
- The observation that, from a youth perspective, the cost of using recreation facilities can be challenging
- The desire for free, social events in Coquitlam for youth and young adults
- The popularity of the current drop-in youth programming at the Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex
- The belief that all people need a gathering place to "unplug" and the possibility of offering newcomers a space to learn English and socialize
- The belief that youth newcomers may not be aware of the City's recreation programs and the suggestion that promotions targeting youth newcomers could be undertaken by, or in collaboration with, the School District

- The belief that it would be beneficial for the City to establish a liaison position to the School District to promote the after-school programming available to youth at local community and recreation facilities
- The alignments between the education occurring in schools, community and recreation facilities
- The desire for bus service in the northeast area and the discussions underway with TransLink
- The comparison between the space available in homes of the past versus modern-day homes, and the observation that community recreation and library spaces are now doubling as people's second living rooms and social hubs
- The desire to ensure that neighbourhood centres act as community hubs where residents can live, work, shop and play, all within convenient proximity of one another

The Chair encouraged the Committee to provide additional input to the Committee Clerk by email and thanked staff for their presentation.

4. Committee Orientation

The Committee Clerk provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities, utilizing an on-screen presentation with slides titled as follows:

- Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Orientation
- Housekeeping Items
- Coquitlam City Council
- 2020 Advisory and Statutory Committees
- Connect with Us
- City's Planning Processes and You
- Committee Mandate
- Role of the Committee
- Role of the Committee Cont'd
- Role of the Chair and Vice Chair
- Role of the Staff Lead(s)
- Role of the Committee Clerk
- Term of Appointment and Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest
- Questions?

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Director Development Services noted that a home-based business would require a Business Licence from the City and residents could visit the City's Business Link Office for additional information.

5. Review and Approval of the Draft 2020 MAC Work Plan

The Director Development Services referenced the draft 2020 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) Work Plan attached to the agenda package, and provided a high level overview of the proposed items for the Committee.

The Chair asked the Committee members whether they had any questions or comments

relative to the draft 2020 MAC Work Plan, and there were none.

The Committee approved the draft 2020 MAC Work Plan and a copy is attached to these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 2020 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Work Plan.

6. Multiculturalism Strategic Plan – Status Update

The Director Development Services provided a verbal briefing regarding the work undertaken by the previous Committee and Community Planning staff relative to the updated Multiculturalism Strategic Plan (MSP). He spoke to the pivot of the 2011 MSP from an internally-focused document to an updated community-focused document, the input currently being sought from other City departments regarding the action items proposed within the draft MSP, and the future input that would be sought from the Committee relative to the proposed action items prior to finalizing the Plan.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Director Development Services suggested late spring 2020 as the expected timeline to bring the updated draft MSP back to the Committee for further consideration.

In response to a question from another Committee member, staff spoke to the previous agenda item and the work plan approval process.

7. Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited Committee members to share details regarding upcoming events or emerging issues in their communities. The following information was shared:

- The challenges that a local immigrant services organization was experiencing with classroom occupancy rates due to students' concerns regarding potential infection with the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Discussion ensued relative to the organization's efforts to encourage constructive dialogue in the community, the need for public education and awareness on the issue, the available information and resources posted on the BC Centre for Disease Control's website, proactive ways to combat self-quarantine, and information recently shared on the issue by BBC News.
- That Pink Shirt (Anti-Bullying) Day would be held on February 26th.
- The recent Wet'suwet'en pipeline protests, the potential to build awareness in the community, and the possibility of future discussion relative to the issue.
- The desire for Coquitlam to establish itself as regional business hub or second "downtown" and Council's direction to staff to undertake that goal as part of the new City Centre Area Plan.
- The well-established Emergency Operations Centre activated by the City in the case of

emergencies, and the understanding that provisions could be offered to residents in need as part of those operations.

- Travel and parking challenges experienced by residents living in mountainous areas of Coquitlam due to unplowed roads during the recent snowfall.
- Upcoming events at the Coquitlam Public Library including a celebration of the Persian New Year (Norouz) and an Iranian short film festival.
- The recruitment efforts underway by the Coquitlam Foundation for board members representing various ethnicities, including information posted on the Foundation's website and print ads within the Tri-City News.
- That the Persian Fire Festival event would be held at the TD Performance Plaza, Town Centre Park, on St. Patrick's Day.
- Details of the recent Tri-Cities Local Immigrant Partnership (TCLIP) "Kindness Rocks" initiative.
- That February is Black History Month and local libraries could offer those interested much in the way of educational materials on the subject.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, April 15, 2020

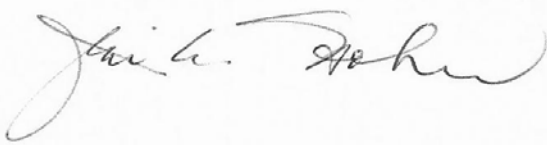
Staff noted that due to the timing of Spring Break, the next meeting would be held in April rather than March.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk