

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Bonita Zarrillo, Vice Chair
Simin Ahmadian
Adrienne Ahn (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)
Honore Gbedze
Ann Johannes
Andrea Kwasnicki
Jessica Liu
Priti Shah
Iris Sun

REGRETS: Leticia Pamela (Pam) Garcia
Zahra Zaker

ABSENT: Carolina Echeverri

STAFF: Cristina Rucci, Community Social Development Manager
Kristen Elkow, Planner 3
Glen Chua, Planner 2
Torill Gillespie, Social Planner
Chrissy Bennett, Outdoor Sports Coordinator
Elona Saro, Planning Assistant 1
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan - Presentation

The Chair welcomed the Planner 3 to the meeting and she introduced herself and provided an on-screen presentation, referring to slides titled as follows:

- Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan
- Purpose of Today's Session
- Location of Northwest Burke Vision (NBV) in Coquitlam 2017
- Northwest Burke Vision – Land Use and Servicing Overview
- Northwest Burke Vision – 4 Neighbourhood Planning Areas
- City of Coquitlam 2021 Business Plan
- What's A Neighbourhood Plan?
- Objectives
- Process
- What We Are Doing Now
- Demographics – Age
- Demographics – Income
- Demographics – Household Size
- Demographics – Top 10 Non-Official Languages Most Often Spoken at Home
- Demographics – Top Five Recent Immigration by Place of Birth
- Being Involved

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- That the demographics in the presentation were based on Census Canada data to 2016
- Considerations for accessibility relative to the engagement plan, including how staff planned to reach out to and engage potentially hard to reach populations, particularly during the time of COVID-19
- Concern that the City's engagement materials were not typically provided in Spanish or other less common local languages, and whether interpreters could be made available to assist residents who speak those languages
- That the engagement plan was in its early stages and language barriers could be considered by staff going forward
- Some details of the engagement plan that staff planned to utilize through the various stages of the Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan, including virtual connections, an online survey, mail-outs, and telephone conversations
- Whether staff could undertake outreach in local gathering spaces such as coffee shops
- That staff welcomed feedback from the community and, going forward, residents could engage through the Project's email, phone number, and webpage address letstalkcoquitam.ca/hazelcoy
- The desire that staff consider holding focus groups for seniors or older populations to receive their input regarding the planned infrastructure that could impact them, such as walkways
- The desire that the Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan include an environmental component to protect the biodiversity of creeks and/or streams in the area

- That there are standards that apply to all watercourses in the City, so that there are established setbacks and good habitats for aquatic and other species that live or travel through those corridors
- That the steep topography and escarpments in the area could equate to some natural parts not being suitable for development and, for that reason, they could remain as is
- The sentiment that people will need “places where we can become more human” following the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suggestion that the Neighbourhood Plan include small, beautiful green spaces with water features where people could sit, read, contemplate life, and meet friends
- Some details regarding the Pinecone Burke Provincial Park located proximal to the planned Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood, and the collaboration occurring between the City and Province relative to establishing a trails network within the Park
- The understanding that the new Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood and growing Burke Mountain community could have a larger proportion of parks built into it than some of the older, previously established areas of Coquitlam
- The desire that the City’s new neighbourhoods be designed so that they attract a diverse and inclusive population, i.e. discourage enclaves through design
- The planning practices that staff utilize to encourage more diverse, inclusive neighbourhood populations and that staff are open to receiving ideas from the Committee in that regard
- The understanding that one of the things that residents most appreciated about the Smiling Creek Neighbourhood Plan was that it allowed for “aging in place”
- Whether the City could, through zoning, require or encourage more developments that cater to multi-family, multi-generational residences
- The benefits of design relative to offering a broader range of size and configuration of housing unit options
- The importance of transportation networks relative to giving people of all ages an opportunity to travel through their neighbourhoods autonomously and with ease

The Chair spoke to Council’s desire to ensure a diverse mix of housing choices and complete communities throughout all parts of Coquitlam.

3. Community Support Program, Volunteer Initiative – Presentation

The Outdoor Sports Coordinator introduced herself and provided a joint presentation with the Community Social Development Manager. They referred to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Volunteer Support Initiatives – April 21, 2021
- Community Recovery and Support Program
- Community Volunteer Support Initiative
- Resources for the Nonprofit Sector
- Celebrate and Connect
- Connecting
- How to Get Involved
- Kitchen Table Talk: The Check In
- Thank You

The Committee participated in roundtable discussion, “Kitchen Table Talk”, and provided staff with feedback regarding what members had been experiencing in their work and their personal lives over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic, how they had pivoted within their organizations to continue to meet the needs of clients, and their successes and challenges.

The Chair supported the idea of organizations implementing hybrid approaches to public engagement and asked the Committee whether their organizations were implementing programs to support clients without computers. A Committee member noted that her organization was working with Telus and a local computer retailer to provide refurbished, lower-cost computers to refugee families in need of assistance, however, the opportunities to provide assistance were limited.

In response to a further question from the Chair, the Committee members spoke to their predictions regarding what they and their organizations expected to experience over the next 12-18 months.

The Community Social Development Manager thanked the members for their candor and the information shared during the talk. She noted that Non-Profits interested in connecting with the Community Support Hub could visit the dedicated [Coquitlam.ca/supporthub](https://coquitlam.ca/supporthub) webpage, subscribe to email updates through the City’s NotifyMe direct email service, and/or email supporthub@coquitlam.ca. She further noted that, should the Committee desire it, staff could provide members with a “Kitchen Table Talk” package of information, and reminded everyone of the availability of the Community Recovery and Support Program and upcoming grants.

4. Disaggregated Demographic Data Collection Sub-committee Update (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited the Community Social Development Manager to provide opening remarks.

The Community Social Development Manager noted that staff had recently received a draft proposal from the Sub-committee Leader, but as its stated purpose was outside of the scope of research and investigative work previously agreed to by the Committee, staff were suggesting that the Committee discussion be deferred to a future meeting. She noted that the deferral could afford staff and the Sub-committee an opportunity to regroup and determine next steps.

The Sub-committee Leader spoke to the work undertaken by the Sub-committee to date and expressed some concern with staff’s suggestion. Staff clarified the purpose of the Sub-committee, “to investigate and/or identify disaggregated data sources and the ways that such data could be collected locally, with a view to presenting further information to the Committee for consideration”, as agreed to by the Committee when the group was established. The Sub-committee Leader spoke to her belief regarding the level of work involved in undertaking such an endeavor.

The Chair requested that item be deferred and for the Sub-committee to please work with the staff leads to discuss its work to date and determine next steps, so that the Committee could have a more fulsome discussion of the agenda item at a future meeting.

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

The Chair invited the Committee to share information updates regarding happenings and emerging multicultural issues occurring in their communities. The members provided details regarding the following:

- A Tri-Cities Region Food Security Town Hall would be held the evening of April 22nd, and a public online survey titled “Tri-Cities Region Food Security Assessment and Action Plan” at surveyMonkey.com/r/tricitiesfood would be open until May 15th
- The Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership would hold a series of events regarding “Dismantling Barriers and Fostering Belonging: An Anti-Racism Initiative” from May 4th to 21st
- In response to the anti-Asian hate incident that had recently occurred at Lafarge Lake, that the two women involved were spearheading an e-virtual rally and it would be held on May 10th.

The Chair noted that a day of action had recently occurred in Coquitlam against the anti-Asian hate crimes that had occurred in the lower mainland and noted his strong support for everyone making efforts to ensure that such crimes were stopped.

At the request of the Committee, staff undertook to email copies of the staff presentations and resources shared during the meeting to the members by email.

OTHER BUSINESS

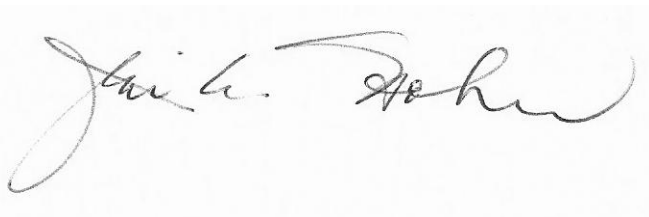
NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, May 19, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

_____ CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk