

**MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair  
Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair  
Simin Ahmadian, Citizen Representative  
Shannon Alves, Citizen Representative  
Silvia Luigia Camolese, Citizen Representative  
Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:16 p.m.)  
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative  
Arun Ghag, Citizen Representative (left at 7:52 p.m.)  
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative  
Bitia Rezaei, Citizen Representative  
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

REGRETS: Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
Zeralynne Te, Community Social Development Manager  
Doron Fishman, Park Planning and Design Manager  
John Musil, Parks Planner 2  
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER****ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Glen Park – Phase 3**

The Park Planning and Design Manager provided introductory comments.

Lucie Wee arrived to the meeting at this time (7:04 p.m.).

The Parks Planner 2 provided a presentation entitled “Glen Park Phase 3” that covered the following topics:

- Background and overview of Glen Park (hereon “the Park”)
- Project timelines and public engagement opportunities
- Glen Park Master Plan (2011)
- The Park and City Centre demographic data and population growth projections
- History of the Park’s amenity expansion and upgrades
- Phase 3’s proposed amenity expansion and upgrades

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Rationale for the Park’s Phase 3 amenity expansion despite other nearby parks and facilities with comparable amenities
- Comparison between the Park and Blue Mountain Park’s features
- Staff’s desire for community feedback
- The City’s changing demographics in last decade

Carolina Echeverri arrived to the meeting at this time (7:16 p.m.).

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The desire for a walking promenade, connecting the Park to other nearby Coquitlam parks, increasing green space, Wi-Fi connectivity and charging pads for electronics, a cultural corner and social space, covered plaza/outdoor spaces, a spray park and childminding area, community gardens and a meditative/reflective space
- Coquitlam Public Library (CPL) story times in the Park during the summer, including the Family Story Time and the Fresh Air Story Time
- Different perspectives regarding the Park being a neighbourhood park rather than a larger community/social park
- How the Committee’s feedback will be utilized and turned into actionable items
- The possibility of staff collaborating with the CPL to host pop-up public engagement opportunities

### **3. 2023 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Update**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion provided a presentation entitled “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Update” that covered the following topics:

- Background information on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- The City’s 2023 EDI Work Plan items including key themes and goals
- Accessibility and diversity in Coquitlam
- Public engagement opportunities
- Bridging gaps, breaking down barriers and providing safe and welcoming civic spaces
- Collaboration and partnerships with community organizations
- The necessity of creating an Accessibility Plan and related provincial legislation
- The City’s Cultural Program and example of the “Walk in My Shoes” display at City Hall
- The City’s Recruitment and Retention EDI Action Plan 2023 – 2026
- The future of EDI in Coquitlam

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Where residents can acquire EDI promotional material
- The extent of EDI training programs and opportunities for staff
- Possibility of the City partnering with the Tri-Cities Local Immigration Project (TCLIP) and incorporating its Anti-Oppression Capacity Building Project as a component of internal EDI training
- Importance of the City reaching out to talented and qualified immigrants for employment opportunities
- Possibility of the City partnering with local immigration non-profits, such as TCLIP and Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC), to connect newcomers with local job opportunities and to provide internship opportunities
- Logistical challenges of attracting and retaining employees regardless of background

Arun Ghag left the meeting at this time (7:52 p.m.).

#### **4. Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee Update**

The Sub-Committee Lead advised that there were no updates at this time.

#### **5. Committee Members' Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues**

The Chair invited Committee members to share details regarding upcoming events and emerging issues. The following information was shared:

- ISSofBC upcoming English classes for newcomers in the fall and eventual opening of a new settlement hub
- Upcoming CPL events, including Indigenous Film Festival from September 27 – 29, 2023 and Conversations About Race from October 11 – November 8, 2023
- Vancouver International Film Festival from September 28 – October 8, 2023

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Brent Asmundson, Chair

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Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk