

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair
Simin Ahmadian
Adrienne Ahn
Carolina Echeverri
Honore Gbedze
Ann Johannes
Priti Shah
Iris Sun

REGRETS: Andrea Kwasnicki
Zahra Zaker

ABSENT: Pamela Garcia

STAFF: Genevieve Bucher, Manager Community Planning
Demian Rueter, Planner 3
Torill Gillespie, Social Planner
James Taylor, Planner 2
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Southwest Housing Review Presentation

The Chair welcomed the Planner 3 to the meeting and he introduced himself and made opening remarks regarding the Southwest Housing Review (SWHR) being undertaken by the City. He provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

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- City of Coquitlam Southwest Housing Review
- What is the Southwest Housing Review?
- Area of Study – Southwest Coquitlam
- SWHR: Scope of Work
- SWHR: Objectives
- SWHR – Study Area
- SWHR – Corridors & Nodes
- SWHR – Neighbourhood Pockets
- SWHR – Current NAR / Housing Choices Areas
- SWHR – Current Single-Family Areas
- Phase 1 Public Consultation
- SWHR: Consultation Strategy
- SWHR: Timeline
- Discussion

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The importance of public consultations to the City's housing objectives
- The global competitiveness of cities and the belief that, in the future, there will be a growing need for the City to compete with other municipalities to attract new citizens
- The suggestion that the City produce a video to market the Southwest neighbourhoods to varied demographic groups, including newcomers
- The City's Affordable Housing Strategy and the potential for gentle densification within Southwest neighbourhoods to increase affordable housing options
- The desire that affordable housing options for those with limited incomes, such as single mothers and refugee families, be identified as a key priority within the SWHR
- The importance of targeted outreach to engage and solicit input from those in the community whose "voices are rarely heard"
- The suggestion that the SWHR survey link could be shared with the teachers and students of the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) Coquitlam Branch
- The understanding that new immigrants may not know how to complete a survey and, without assistance, could fear attempting to do so
- The suggestion that staff liaise with the School District 43 administrative staff to request that the SWHR survey link be emailed to students and their families
- Details of the SWHR ad campaign to be undertaken by the City
- Whether the SWHR social media posts could target youth
- Whether the SWHR interactive website and other consultation materials could be offered in more than the two official languages
- Concerns regarding the limitations (accuracy) of the Google translation widget
- The suggestion that the SWHR survey link could be shared with the champions of the Coquitlam Public Library for further dissemination to their contacts and networks
- The length of the survey and whether it was possible to offer both a shorter and a longer version

At the request of the Chair, a Committee member undertook to contact staff regarding circulation of the SWHR survey link to the teachers and students of the ISSofBC Coquitlam Branch.

The Manager Community Planning provided some details regarding the SWHR video promotion being undertaken by staff and noted that should the survey respondents choose to, they could complete specific sections of the survey (work plans) rather than the entire survey.

The Chair encouraged the members to email any further input and/or suggestions to staff following the meeting.

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

The Chair invited the Committee to share information updates and emerging issues occurring in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- Details regarding an upcoming Cohort 2 workshop titled “Own Your Voice: A Storytelling Workshop Series” and that the registration link would be shared by email.
- That a Committee member would email a registration link regarding an upcoming Sage Foundation Theatre production to the Committee.
- Details of Council’s decision to rollover its advisory committees from 2020 to 2021. The Committee Clerk asked that members who were unable to serve the Committee in 2021 to please let her know by mid-November 2020 so that vacancies could be identified by the City Clerk’s Office.

OTHER BUSINESS

OB-1 Disaggregated Demographic Data Collection in Coquitlam

At the invitation of the Chair, a Committee member introduced and summarized the topic. She spoke to some of the key ideas relative to disaggregated data, including efforts being undertaken by governments and other organizations to shift systemic racism by helping people understand their origins and ancestry. She referenced a BC Human Rights Commission (BCHRC) report previously circulated to the Committee titled “Disaggregated Data Collection in British Columbia: A Grandmother Perspective” and shared some of its highlights, including the definition of disaggregated data and the purpose and benefits of collecting and utilizing such data.

She noted her desire to share information with the Committee and proposed that a Sub-committee be struck to research the topic and report back to the Committee with additional information. She shared the hope that, in the future, the Committee could consider making a recommendation to Council regarding the collection of local disaggregated data by the City.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concerns regarding how the collection and reporting of disaggregated data could occur locally, including the challenges of self-reporting by business and/or individuals
- Considerations and research regarding the right way of reporting disaggregated data
- How disaggregated data is collected and reported by Statistics Canada
- The understanding that one of the desirable qualities of collecting disaggregated data

is that it gives researchers the ability to drill down into data sets and display disparities and inequities between people and families

- The understanding that equality-adapted data collection projects were being undertaken by the City of Vancouver

The Manager Community Planning spoke to the following:

- The data collection and analytics undertaken by her staff and the relatively large reliance on data and subsets of data provided by Statistics Canada
- The City's upcoming Open Data Project, what sort of data might be released to the public through that project, and that she could report back on the timing of that process
- That there could be some opportunity for the City to collect disaggregated data when online surveys are conducted
- The Provincial requirements relative to the Housing Needs Report and the possibility the City could be collecting a small amount of disaggregated data as part of that process
- The desire that any approach to the collection of disaggregated data by the City be respectful and structured in such a way that the process would do no harm
- Her interest in the issue and the insights of the Committee

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The understanding that higher levels of government, including Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, are beginning to consider systemic racism and opportunities to address it within their policies and programs
- Sensitivity to the privacy issues involved in the potential collection of such data
- The diversity reporting that organizations provide to the federal government under Bill C-25 and the belief that additional types of reporting will be required in the future
- Belief in the importance of dialogues regarding systemic racism tempered by the understanding that solving such an issue will be a long road
- The belief that cities should not be tasked with solving systemic racism and instead that communities and societies must be creative in that regard
- The belief that it would be helpful if the data collected by job placement organizations and immigrant services societies could be aggregated and shared with governments so that it could be used for people's benefit
- The educational component of the issue and the desire that people understand that sharing their personal data could help rather than harm them
- The complexity of this multi-layered issue

The Manager Community Planning spoke to limitations within the City's current data collection infrastructure and suggested some ways that the Committee could assist staff with upcoming projects, including potential opportunities to help craft the approach to the City's data collection (i.e. survey questions).

In response to a question from the Chair, the Committee agreed to form a 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.

The following Committee members volunteered to sit on the Sub-committee and to share their email addresses with one another to help facilitate the work they planned to undertake: Adrienne Ahn, Simin Ahmadian, Honore Gbedze, Priti Shah, and Iris Sun.

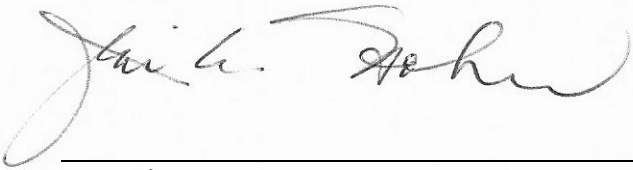
NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, November 18, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeri Hohn", written over a horizontal line.

Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk