



City of Surrey

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Minutes

Pondside Meeting Room
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2007
Time: 11:03 a.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chair – Councillor M. Martin
Councillor Higginbotham
Councillor Villeneuve
R. Asistio
N. Beuk
Dr. B. Gurm
H. Hong
B. King
F. Kung
M. Malik
S. El-Nashar
V. Pittakidis
D. Sandhu
K. Sanghera
S. Scott
M. Solorzano
M. Thompson

Guests:

Chris Hartnell, Initiatives of
Change Association (Canada)
Maneesh Nanda, SFU Surrey
Campus
Brian Johnston, PERC

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
L. Chernick, Training & Development, Human
Resources
P. Reddy, Intercultural Outreach Coordinator
J. Giebelhaus, Office of the Mayor
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

Absent:

Mayor D. Watts
Corp. J. Hundial
J. Kovach
T. Ghuman
C. McBeth (S.Cadwallader)
E. Szucs
K. Polubinski
H. Stilwell, Surrey S.D.36
J. McLeod, Manager, Long
Range Planning & Policy
Development

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee, May 15, 2007 meeting.

It was

Moved by S. El-Nashar

Seconded by D. Sandhu

That the minutes of the Multicultural
Advisory Committee May 15, 2007, be adopted, as circulated.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. **Parks, Recreation & Culture Strategic Plan for 2007-2016**

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department is developing a Parks Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan for 2007-2016. The Plan will provide a report card on existing parks, recreation and culture facilities and understand existing needs related to changing demographics. This Plan will provide a decision-making framework and strategy for the provision of parks, recreation and cultural facilities, programs, and services that is linked to the City's 5-year financial plan.

Brian Johnston of PERC is meeting with key stakeholders to review how we work together presently, and how we can work together in partnership in the upcoming decade. He provided an update on the progress of the development of the Strategic Plan to date as follows:

- All Surrey residents were provided a questionnaire
- The Strategic Plan is a 10 year high level and strategic plan, identifying problems, needs and demands
- Identifying facilities, services, programs, events
- How to communicate to the people the available opportunities and to understand the services that are financed
- Identification of strategies to reduce barriers to participation (financial, cultural, processes, language)
- Information gathering through talking to organizations, clubs, and user groups
- Multicultural Advisory Committee was identified as a user group to assist and understand needs and barriers and from which to gather ideas, thoughts and suggestions.
- Questions:
 - What is improving with regards to serving all aspects of the community and the people, services, parks, recreation facilities, and trends over recent past?
 - Communication is improving--written communication: Parks, Recreation & Culture uses a lot of resources such as newspapers.
 - Outgoing Literature: photos are more inclusive in ethnicity and in translation
 - Understanding of diversity is improving
 - Increased awareness of “what’s happening” in the community
 - What is getting worse?
 - Price – cost for meeting space for non-profit organizations is unreasonably high
 - Population growth puts stress on all facilities such as ice rinks and turf fields
 - Transportation is a barrier to accessing facilities: offer programs in the schools right after school times
 - What should Parks, Recreation & Culture focus on in the future?
 - Put programs at the schools
 - Teacher education regarding multiculturalism
 - Fitness/nutrition - teachers may not understand how important nutrition is
 - Employment fairness (SSLC) – change to city management of employing students.
 - Conflict between seniors and young people in use of facilities (for example the swim pools) – allocate user times to each group to avoid overcrowding of facilities.
 - Make it more affordable for adult fitness gyms
 - Outdoor exercise stations (strength development)

- Partnerships with multiple groups (community groups) with settlement agencies
 - o Forward any other comments to Parks, Recreation & Culture.
- The delegation thanked the committee for the opportunity of presenting the update and will be doing the analysis of information and provide a further update to the committee in the fall.
- Final strategic plan will be presented before the year end.

Chairperson Martin thanked the delegation.

2. Whalley Festival of Lights Celebration – October 22–November 2, 2007

Maneesh Nanda, SFU Surrey Campus provided a presentation on the Whalley Festival of Lights celebration on October 22 – November 2, 2007.

Pam Reddy, Intercultural Outreach Coordinator spoke and Maneesh Nanda, SFU Surrey Campus arrived at 11:30 am and at 12:08 pm (following other agenda items) presented the following information:

- An observer with the Board -- Festival of Lights – Simon Fraser University (SFU)
- Rise of Contemporary India:
 - To be inclusive of all the cultures and events
 - Objective – to connect the SFU community with the Indo-Canadian community– Surrey, Burnaby and Vancouver
- Student recruitment; transition; student mobility:
 - Engaged study and abroad
 - Community engagement
 - Regular dialogue for community groups
 - Research at the faculty level
 - Faculty exchange
 - Research partnerships and academic mission
 - Business engagement and coop work placements
 - Fundraising in support of strategy
- SFU India Advisory Council Initiative:
 - A faculty exchange with Punjab University
 - EDE Exchange in November 2006
 - Fundraising initiative - \$70,000 plus for scholarships
 - BC India Network office at SFU Surrey
- Surrey Festival 2007 – the Rise of Contemporary India:
 - Objectives – bring South Asian communities and the general community together in a celebration and educational event
 - Create greater awareness of the opportunities for trade with India
 - Enhance understanding about large and diverse cultural heritage of Indian Diaspora in BC
 - Distinguishing feature – proposed festival – to provide a forum for promoting economic, social and health awareness
 - Launch October 26, 2007 – John Harris, Professor at SFU - “the great tradition globalizes”
 - SFU Surrey student club and SFU International

- Displays of South Asian Culture, history, technology, sports and dance.
- As many locations as possible in Surrey
- Theme One – test run on July 18, 2007
 - India Opportunity workshop - City of Surrey Economic Development Office and Canadian Export Centre Joint Initiative
 - Surrey Board of Trade luncheon
- Theme Two – film and literary showcase
 - Film showings at SFU Surrey and other Surrey venues
 - Readings at City of Surrey libraries (to be decided)
- Theme Three - art, culture and history showcase
 - SFU business and SFU SIAT school creating an online directory of community events.
 - To fly in a chef from Sheraton India

- Closing event – gala dinner Friday, November 2, 2007 at Sheraton – a marquis event:
 - \$250/plate

- Festival Partnerships:
 - Provincial Government
 - Surrey
 - Surrey Board of Trade
 - Canada Export
 - Canada India Business council
 - Cultural and Business Organizations
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - 2007 - Looking at assisting:
 - Promotion
 - Bus develop office key organizer
 - City libraries
 - 2008 – continued to assist:
 - financial assistance after evaluation of 2007 event and 2008 budget

Chairperson Councillor Martin thanked the delegation for his presentation.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. “The Imam & The Pastor”

Chris Hartnell of Initiatives of Change Association (Canada) presented a video to the committee. Following are the comments provided:

- Chris Hartnell was involved in the making of this film, “**The Imam & The Pastor**”, made by Initiate of Change, a film about the outbreak of violence in Nigeria in the 1990’s. This film is 40 minutes long and is about their story.

- Councillors Mary Martin and Judy Higginbotham requested the Chris Hartnell present this film to this Multicultural Advisory Committee.
- In consideration of time restrictions Chris Hartnell showed brief snippets of the film to provide a flavour of what the film is about.
- This film is available and would be useful tool for many cultural communities and as a means of looking at and discussing community histories.
- Initiatives of Change Association (Canada) are currently partnering with Simon Fraser University with the “*Finding Home*” Initiative – “*what does home really mean*” when they live in a community.

Chairperson Councillor Martin thanked the delegation and apologized for not having sufficient time in today’s agenda for viewing the entire film.

2. 2008 Cultural Capitals of Canada Program

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided an overview of the 2008 Cultural Capitals of the Canada. Following are the comments provided:

- Parks, Recreation & Culture are very excited to announce that the application made to the Federal Government Heritage Canada in 2006 has won the City of Surrey the designation in the category of *largest city in Canada* and comes with money: Up to \$2 Million.
- Parks, Recreation & Culture need to resubmit budget information and to show the City’s commitment for cultural development.
- \$667,000 in City money, plus “*in kind*” and sponsorship, plus the \$2.4 Million equals \$4.3 Million
- Provided a handout on table (*Fusion 08*), a summary of the program is provided on the reverse side of handout:
 - *Inspired Ideas Speaker Series*
 - Hosted at Bell Centre for Performing Arts
 - A youth forum and youth strategic plan for Surrey
 - Input from Multicultural Advisory Committee regarding potential speakers regarding cultural sharing is welcome and will be on a future agenda
 - *Civic Treasurers Award Program*
 - 12 key cult leaders in Surrey
 - Nominations for individuals who have made significant impacts regarding cultural richness
 - Committee member suggested having a category of Schools that contribute to cultural development and celebrate diversity
 - *Kla-how-eya Canoe: A Learning Journey*
 - Large canoe is currently being carved at the Surrey Arts Centre
 - Funding from this program will allow school curriculum criteria regarding the canoe will be provided to schools to engage and interact with children and the story of canoe and aboriginal culture
 - Project very interactive with schools and the community
 - *Green Timbers Forest Interpretation Centre*
 - Approved as part of overall award submission

- To create ways for public to learn more regarding the park and its heritage
 - Develop a program to engage kids and community
 - Curriculum with schools to be developed focusing on environmental education
 - *Vaisakhi: “Harvest the Fun” Celebration*
 - Festival of dance in April to be expanded to more cultural representation – to diversify that program for more diverse cultures to be included in the dance celebration
 - Different cultures to attach to the Vaisakhi celebration
 - At Bell Centre for Performing Arts – one final performance after a month of dance. Currently the Festival of Dance has 10,000 children cross the stage in the month
 - 2008
 - *Catalysts, Connections and Intersections: Six Public Art Projects for Surrey*
 - A piece of public art to be developed in each of the six town centres through an artists call and jury process in each community
 - *Glocal*
 - The Art centre has a successful new media project that engaged youth.
 - Influence that new technology and art is having on youth’s experience of the world
 - How they relate to technology
 - *Fusion Festival*
 - Theme: Fusion - a catalyst for cultural sharing
 - 3 day celebration of diversity to bring all cultures together for a good time with music, dance, performances, food, fun, dialogue etc.
 - 3 day festival possibly over the long weekend in September
 - Timing not to detract from heavy community vacation times or other celebrations (such as Canada Day; July – Diwali Days and Fleetwood Festival)
 - Evaluating for possible host locations:
 1. Cloverdale Fairgrounds
 2. City Centre area:
 - Newly completed Holland Park
 - Central City tower and in front of North Surrey Recreation Centre
 - SFU community space
- How does this relate to this committee as a role for this committee?
 - A subcommittee to work with city staff
 - Focus groups and opportunities for groups to get involved in design and delivery of event
 - Subcommittee – proposing experience in special event coordination (Kulwinder Sanghera and Cameron McBeth had expressed an interest). If interested contact the GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture (lacavan@Surrey.ca)

- The more corporate sponsorship obtained the better for ensuring a good event.
- All funding is a one-time Government funding and must all be spent by March 31, 2009. There is no capital dollars; all money is going to programs.
- Have less than six months to prepare.

Discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were provided:

- Civic programs – give it to schools for multiculturalism.
- Its great to recognize leaders, but suggest a great idea would be recognizing schools that have gone out of their way to create and improve their community.
- Have been looking at one location to start since that is how the festival was conceived. We do have the flexibility to look at other Surrey sites to spread to in future (Winnipeg’s Folklorama Festival– 20 years running – an individual society runs the program).
- The challenge is that some communities are so new they do not yet have their own community facility.
- Suggestion made for a theme: a day and night theme.
- Need to explore the *how to* for the event. *“Let’s be really successful and grow with that!”*
- The GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture will provide a report by early August.
- Chairperson Councillor Martin advised that the **2008 Cultural Capitals of Canada Program** will be a standing agenda item, for discussion at each meeting since we have only a short time to prepare for the event.

3. **Fusion Festival Concept**

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided an overview of the Fusion Festival Concept. Following are the comments provided:

- This item was dealt with under C.2.

4. **Fusion Festival Advisory Committee**

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided information on the Fusion Festival Advisory Committee. Following are the comments provided:

- This item was dealt with under C.2.

5. **Emerging Priorities and Policy Discussions**

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided information on the Emerging Priorities and Policy Discussions. Following are the comments provided:

- This item was dealt with under C.2.

D. **OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

1. Terms of Reference –

That the minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting May 15, 2007 include a recommendation to Council to approve the Terms of Reference reflective of the change in wording regarding community representatives on the committee.

1. Mandate

(a) *“The purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) is to enhance multicultural harmony and intercultural cooperation in the City of Surrey.”*

2. Membership

(b) *“Members of the Committee shall be selected by City Council and shall include representatives from as many cultural communities as needed.”*

It was

Moved by Nick Beuk

Seconded by Sandra Scott

That the Multicultural Advisory Committee

recommend that Council approve its Terms of Reference reflective of the change in wording regarding community representatives on the committee.

Carried

E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**1. Multicultural Workshop Report**

Nicola Webb, GM, Human Resources, provided the Multicultural Workshop Report and requested that all the committee members please take time to review and read through the report.

2. Future Agenda Items

Nicola Webb, GM, Human Resources, discussed future agenda items. Following are the comments provided:

- The Multicultural Centre for Centre of Understanding project will be brought forward as an agenda item at the next meeting, September 18, 2007.
- Neighbourhood Based Cultural Awareness Initiative will be brought forward as an agenda item at the November 20, 2007 meeting.

F. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 11:00 am in the Pondsides meeting room.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Muhammad Malik

Seconded by Dr. Balbir Gurm

That the Multicultural Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Multicultural Advisory Committee