

Present:

Chair – Councillor Martin
Seniors Liaison, Councillor Steele
S. Chaudhry
K. Fisher
J. Laitar
M. Malik
T. Oleman
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Sabharwal
E. Szücs

Regrets:

Councillor Rasode, Community
Safety Liaison
L. Larsen, School Trustee Liaison
S. El-Nashar
Dr. B. Gurm
C. Hong
B. King

Absent:

T. Ghuman
C. Iweh
J. Kovach

Staff Present:

S. Tosdeviné-Tataryn, CSC2, Chuck Bailey
L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
Dal. Gill-Badesha, Manager, Middle
Childhood, Kensington Prairie Community
Centre
R. Takhar, RCMP Crime Reduction &
Community Services Manager
L. Bowie, Manager, Healthy Communities
C. Tallarico, Change Management Specialist
J. Danyk, Community Services Assistant, PRC
A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1.**

It was

Moved by S. Sabharwal

Seconded by S. Chaudhry

That the minutes of the Diversity Advisory

Committee meeting of March 19, 2013, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Seniors Strategy for an Age Friendly City**

Susan Papadionnissiou provided a presentation regarding the Seniors Strategy for an Age Friendly City. Surrey has over 56,600 seniors. Seniors comprised of 42.7% of the population (per the 2011 census); 9,680 seniors live alone; 24,310 seniors in Surrey live in single, detached houses; 23,565 seniors with activity limitations; 9,630 seniors in Surrey do not speak English.

The Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee has four functions:
CARE - Coordination; Advocacy; Research; and Education.

Coordination - Forums & Education -

- There have been 14 multilingual forums held since 2008, on a wide range of topics such as fraud prevention, safety and elder abuse prevention.
- Annual Aging in Place Conference (May 31, 2013).
- "A Roof over my Head" – a housing workshop series on seniors' housing.

Advocacy & Connection –

- Seniors Connectors programs and partnership with Come Share Society - isolated seniors and/or their caregivers are provided resources and referrals to assist.
- DIVERSEcity partnership to deliver the Community Action for Seniors Independence project.

Surrey is an Age Friendly City and the vision is for a city where people enjoy lifelong activity and engagement. Outcomes for an age friendly city to include Safety, Health and Wellness, Transportation, Housing, and a Healthy Built Environment.

Strategies and Principles include programs and services; respectful engagement of seniors; collaboration with partners; and communication and promotion. Results will be inclusion for all, and community engagement, respect, and accountability.

The City's Strategy for an Age Friendly City Engagement Process will include the distribution of a survey tool through the City's website, at City Speak, CRC's, Libraries, and at the Aging in Place Conference (May 31, 2013); through conversations with the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee, the Diversity Advisory Committee, Healthy Communities, and the Social Policy Advisory Committee and at Seniors' Week. Engagement activities will be held at community recreation centres, parks and libraries. Staff knowledge will be transferred through individual interviews with Fire, RCMP, Social Planning, Community Recreation Centres, Library, Engineering, Legislative Services, Human Resources, Arts and Heritage.

The World Health Organization identified eight features to an age friendly city—Surrey has them: Outdoor spaces and buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information, Community and Health Services.

Committee members voiced concerns regarding affordability, accessible age friendly buildings, and seniors who do not have access to computers and websites to get this information; and the lack of reliable senior dedicated transportation. Suggestions were provided to target doctors' offices, religious institutions and cultural associations in order to get the information out to seniors.

Committee members were provided a questionnaire for how best to implement the above and requested feedback on each outcome separately be emailed to Councillor Steele at HBS Steele@surrey.ca

2. **Surrey Welcoming Communities Project**

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner stated that the Welcoming Communities Project is not about settling newcomers but rather about the community accepting, including and welcoming newcomers. The Provincial Government has dedicated funding towards the settlement program.

Over an 18 month period, Surrey has \$667,000 to spend with its partners on this project.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is assuming responsibility for settlement services in British Columbia beginning in April 2014. There was a tight time line of six weeks to do the proposal and submit the application for this funding. With the City of Surrey as the lead and working with many of Surrey's welcoming agencies, we have one year to implement the plan.

Barriers for new immigrants settling in Surrey were identified as follows:

- Access to Employment
- Intercultural understanding and building new relationships and trust
- Creating welcoming spaces and services
- Limited understanding of refugees and their challenges

Projects and initiatives will include:

- Surrey Youth Engagement Project
- Youth led Welcoming Communities Social Media Project
- Public Exhibitions of Refugee cultures
- Refugee Myth Busting Campaign – Public Education Initiative
- Welcoming Spaces and Places reviews
- Employer and Business Presentations and Forums
- Service Provider Welcoming Communities Events
- Welcoming Communities Dialogues Inspired by Cooking and Food; and
- A City of Surrey Youth Volunteer Inclusion Initiative was recently added to this project list. Many young people would like to participate in more activities in their communities. As a result, a suggestion was made to review the current youth volunteer recruitment system and to create resources for training young people to encourage and support refugee youth who would like to be City of Surrey volunteers. Websites: www.getintheknow.ca
www.wicsurrey.org/

Notices will be sent out regarding the following upcoming events:

- Service Providers Networking Event, a welcoming communities networking event - June 11, 2013. It is free but pre-registration is encouraged as there is limited space.
- World Refugee Day Event - June 20, 2013.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) on June 3, 2013. The deadline for application is July 8, 2013.

The Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPS) program will support broad-based, community-level collaboration related to newcomer settlement and integration (City to apply as agency – TBD).

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEM****H. OTHER BUSINESS****1. Surrey Doors Open**

June 22, 2013 - 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Jessica Danyk, Doors Open Coordinator provided a brief presentation and update highlighting the many committees, i.e., Diversity, Social Policy and the Heritage Commission, who have representatives on the 2013 Doors Open Planning Committee. Last year was the first year of the event. A lot of feedback was received and has been integrated into the 2013 event. The Planning Committee is commended for their hard work. A strong marketing effort will be made to ensure people know about the event. Marketing brochures were distributed. Event guides will soon be available. New for 2013, there will be free hop-on hop-off trolleys running between the venues. Visitors can get their brochure stamped at each venue and enter to win draw prizes.

The Opening Ceremony will be at 1:00 pm at the Newton Community Festival. An Aboriginal Blessing Ceremony will be held. Councillor Villeneuve will do the welcoming and opening remarks. There will be heritage re-enactment actors, Artisan in the Park, crafters, artists, a tour of Bear Creek Gardens and a painting contest. This event supports Surrey being a welcoming community. Check the website for more information: www.surrey.ca/doorsopen - dots on the map will be linked to further information and the history of each site.

The event is free. We encourage everyone to take part and “*Be a tourist in your own City*”.

2. Diversity Health Fair – May 11, 2013

Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre

Jessica Danyk, on behalf of Options Community Services Society provided the following information: Options, Success, PICS and City of Surrey partnered to host the Diversity Health Fair with funding from AMSA and Job Skills Training. In 2012 there were 600 attendees; in 2013 there were 1,000 attendees – almost double.

The Opening Ceremony featured multicultural entertainment groups. Over 40 exhibitors participated in the event. All displays were related to health and/or services for newcomers. All the tables were interactive, demonstrating a proactive approach to health care. Free screenings, including hearing testing were offered.

Information was available and provided in many languages, by brochures and speakers. Volunteer translators were available. There were also interactive booths to connect onto the network.

There were prizes and giveaways, a family play zone, healthy eating, African stages teaching culture through story and dance, workshops and fitness classes; "Living Active is Living Well" workshops offering Banghra, Qui Gong, Tai Chi, Zumba, Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide.

Thirty volunteers were engaged in the event from different organizations. Free parking and free busses were provided.

JoyTV interviewed Diversity Advisory Committee member Connie Hong. Watch this video on www.joytv.ca

3. **Fusion Fest 2013 - July 20-21, 2013**
Holland Park

Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, stated that 40 countries are involved with the Fusion Fest this year (double that of 2008). The countries of Australia, Tonga and Tanzania have joined the event this year. The Welcoming Ceremony will take place at 4:00 pm on the Saturday, July 20, 2013, followed by the parade.

The Powwow is back with Tom Oleman providing leadership and initiative. There will be the Kids Zone, the Flavours of Surrey zone, and five stages with 100 performers over the two days. Seniors will be featured between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. *k-os* (Kheaven Brereton, aka *k-os* (pronounced: chaos)) on Saturday night; Blues Group with Jim Burns and Steve Dawson; Topa Remix – a 100 years of Bollywood cinema on Sunday evening; Banghra and belly dance on both days. Over 90,000 are expected to attend over the two days. Visit the Fusion website to learn more:

<http://www.surrey.ca/fusionfestival/7597.aspx>

4. **UNESCO – Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and Development**

In 2001, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the United Declaration on Cultural Diversity. In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly declared May 21 to be *World Day for Cultural Diversity and Development* – a time for celebration, reflection, exploration and commitment.

In 2011, a grassroots campaign "Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion" was launched by UNESCO and the UN Alliance of Civilizations. The 2013 campaign, by encouraging people and organizations from around the world to take concrete action to support diversity, aims:

- To raise awareness worldwide about the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion.
- To build a world community of individuals committed to support diversity with real and every day-life gestures.

- To combat polarization and stereotypes to improve understanding and cooperation among people with different cultures.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2013.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Pyne

Seconded by J. Laitar

That the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting

do now adjourn.

Carried

The Diversity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity Advisory Committee