

Present:

Chair – Councillor Martin
CoChair – Councillor Starchuk
School Trustee Liaison, L. Larsen
P. Aylward
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
Dr. B. Gurm
C. Iweh
B. King
M. Malik
T. Oleman
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Sarbharwal
K. Thiara
J. Thind

Absent:

S. Altokhais
A. David
M. Fallon
G. Grewal
J. Kovach
D. Preston
D. Ganam, Youth Rep

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
E. Desautels, Community Services Coordinator
L. Bowie, Manager, Healthy Communities
L. White, Manager, Community & Recreation Services
C. Bejtovic, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting of May 19, 2015 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by B. Gurm

Seconded by S. Sarbharwal

That the minutes of the Diversity Advisory Committee, held May 19, 2015, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. **Brittney Prentice, Executive Director, and Lana Batcheller, Surrey 2016 Organizing Committee for the WBSC Women's World Softball Championship**

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to provide a brief overview of the 2016 Women's World Softball Championship.

The following comments were made:

- The delegation presented a brief video showing their successful bid to host the 2016 Women's World Softball Championship in Surrey. There will potentially be 120 teams participating from more than 30 nations; 2,000 athletes; 1,500 officials, coaches and trainers; more than 125,000 in attendance; approximately 5,000 room nights; and 650 volunteers. The estimated economic impact for Surrey is potentially in excess of \$20 million.
- The Mission is to host an unparalleled World Softball Championship, where the unifying power of sport will bring the community together in competition, culture, and celebration.
- Invitations from the World Softball Association will go out to the teams in the fall; teams must commit by early 2016.
- The roadway and parkway between South Surrey arena and Softball City will be to stage a celebration of nations, with song and dance performances from each cultural community participating in the tournament.
- The Committee is asked to support this event by creating awareness and to encourage their communities to attend the Championship, or as an element of the celebration of nations. Information about the event can be found at www.surrey2016.com

Discussion

- Ticket prices are listed on the web site. A tournament adult pass with early bird discount is approximately \$175 for the entire event. Daily ticket prices will be posted on the web after December 31. There will be no charge for the cultural festival as it will take place outside the ticketed gate. The confirmed teams will be posted on the web site in Spring 2016.
- Perimeter tents will showcase a variety of things such as food, art and information. Youth clinics will be available for local children to participate as well as for coaches and officials.
- Contact information is on the pamphlet provided as well as on the web site.
- This event has the potential to see the largest number of athletes in any single sport in North America. Format has changed for 2016 to be invitational rather than a set number of teams.

2. **Olga Shcherbyna, Surrey LIP Coordinator and
Magdalena Mot, Co-Chair, Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR)**

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to provide a brief update on the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) and the Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR).

The following comments were made:

- The Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) platform was founded by Citizenship Canada and designed to bring together local stakeholders and community leaders to improve immigration at the community level.
- The Surrey LIP was established in 2014 and is co-chaired by Councillor Villeneuve and Anita Huberman from the Surrey Board of Trade. The Surrey LIP brings together organizations representing different community sectors. It is the governing body responsible for developing a strategic plan, achieved through community consultation and research.
- The Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR) was established to bring authentic immigrant voices to the project. The IAR is involved not only in the consultation process but also in decision making. The IAR produces a monthly e-update that is distributed to more than 600 stakeholders.
- For the last 18 months the IAR has been involved in a consultation process focusing on four themes:
 - Sense of belonging and inclusion;
 - Service mapping;
 - Refugees; and
 - Labour market integration.
- Executive summaries from the first two projects are included in the agenda package. Research shows Surrey residents are proud to live in Surrey, that they feel Surrey is welcoming and inclusive. They would, however, like to see more activities which provide more meaningful interaction between them and Canadians.
- Research also shows that settlement structure is not adequate to meet the needs of newcomers, and that there is a gap in information about services.
- Next steps include hosting more stakeholder consultations with a broader community and identifying priorities for a strategic plan.
- More information about the project can be found at: www.surreyLIP.ca
- The Immigrant Advisory Roundtable (IAR) is a diverse group with 18 members of all ages and backgrounds. They meet with the LIP every two months and participate in focus groups and consultations.
- The IAR's first event is a Welcome to the City Centre block party on September 25 at City Centre Plaza from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. The event is intended to bring together not only immigrants but all citizens who live in the area, and to provide opportunities to network and to learn more about each other's cultures.
- Financial support is received through sponsorship from many organizations and institutions, which also provide volunteers.

Discussion

- Concern was expressed that the LIP may be equating diversity with ethnicity. Staff responded that this is a foundational research project; a list of definitions does not currently exist. The goal of the project is to look at long term residents and Canadian born reception of immigrants. The mandate given by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), immigrant integration, must also be taken into consideration.
- Concern was expressed about the number of services that have been deemed not effective. Staff responded that services are not ineffective, but the diversity, scope or accessibility to services may be inadequate. More community consultation is required to determine the definition of adequacy and what it means for the community.
- Consultation is required to further define priorities; the main goal is to develop a strategic plan for Surrey. The plan will have two parts:
 - identify priorities for the community;
 - identify concrete actions that can be taken by the community.

The Executive Summary contains a list of recommendations which needs to be narrowed down to what is attainable.

- The Committee asked whether programs deemed ineffective would be referred to the City to address. Staff responded that the question is about adequacy, not effectiveness; we are not assessing service organizations. The Committee suggested inviting different levels of government to these discussions to address the issue of adequacy.

3. Erin Desautels, Community Services Coordinator

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to provide a brief update on Surrey Doors Open.

The following comments were made:

- Staff presented a short video of highlights of this year's Surrey Doors Open event.
- It was the fourth year for Doors Open; featured communities included City Centre, Bear Creek, Newton and Cloverdale. These communities showcased their art, architecture, heritage and culture. Volunteers from Historical Society provided tour guides for two of the trolleys and buses which transported people between the 39 venues. Almost 60 volunteers participated at different venues as ambassadors for the event.
- There were new partnerships in 2015 with different businesses and community partners. The Honey Bee Centre was very popular. Vancouver Trolley Co. provided trolleys; trolley drivers indicated that some riders chose to stay on the trolleys simply for the experience, rather than hop on and off at different venues.

The 2016 format will build on successes from this year and will rotate through town centres. Cloverdale and South Surrey may be on the roster for next year. The first planning meeting for 2016 will take place in the fall.

4. **L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture**

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to provide a brief overview on the success of Fusion Festival.

The following comments were made:

- Fusion Festival was tremendously successful in 2015 in spite of the heat. It was estimated there were over 95,000 people in attendance over the course of the weekend. Pre-purchase of tickets prior to visiting the booths simplified the process.
- There were 40 cultural pavilions and more than 100 cultural performances on five stages. The Saturday concert was very popular; the Jose Feliciano concert on Sunday night was also excellent. Cultural dance and music were integrated throughout the site; pavilions also featured some entertainment.
- Setting up pavilions is a complicated endeavor, especially in terms of satisfying health requirements where food is being served. Food is a major highlight of the Festival.
- Musical instruments were the theme this year; pavilions were encouraged to showcase different musical elements of their culture.
- El Salvador won the Best Dressed Pavilion; Tonga came in second; and Canada took third prize.
- The Flavours of Surrey was introduced to Fusion Festival about three years ago, showcasing local agriculture within Surrey. Flavours of Surrey adds a different element of our local ongoing culture in agriculture and land based agriculture industry.
- A certain level of funding for the event comes from the City, but there is corporate sponsorship as well, such as YVR and CBC. Revenue is generated on site as well.

K. Polubinski left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Discussion

- The SFU pipe band was on site, celebrating their 50th anniversary.

- The Committee commented that the pavilions were engaging with many people from around the region. People had come from Pt. Moody, Mission, Victoria, Maple Ridge, Burnaby, and internationally as well. Staff advised that there are many large festivals in Canada; Fusion Festival is the largest cultural celebration in Western Canada.
- It was suggested that organizers consider going beyond highlighting food and music by acknowledging the commonalities between the cultures rather than the differences.
- T. Oleman advised the Committee that he will be recommending to the new Board of the Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society to withdraw from participating in Fusion Festival in the future due to the availability of alcohol. In the past, Fusion festival has offered a clean and sober environment; Mr. Oleman expressed his disappointment that this is no longer the case. An official letter will be forthcoming in this regard.
- Discussions were held regarding the high cost of food. It was noted that vendors are paying 20% to the City of Surrey and it was suggested that fee should be waived to enable vendors to bring their prices down. Staff responded that the 20% fee goes to help produce the festival and that the City subsidizes the festival by approximately \$100,000. If there is no revenue from the food, entertainment would be cut back, on-site support would be reduced, as would the quality of the tents. This will be further discussed with the Fusion Committee.

Tom Oleman left the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

- Further discussion was held in regards to the issue of alcohol at Fusion Festival, and whether it should continue to be made available. The Committee noted it is more important to have the participation of the Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society.
- Staff noted that this was the first year for alcohol on site and ensured that it was heavily regulated. It is a small element of the festival and the idea was to have beverages from around the world. The Committee acknowledged that Fusion Festival is a family oriented event and alcohol takes away from that.
- Staff advised that the Fusion Festival planning committee will look closely at all comments.

K. Thiara left the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

- The Committee noted that Fusion Festival has a large number of expenses: tents, staging, power, washrooms, fencing and asked for information on the bottom line. Staff advised that the event is subsidized by the City and supported by Corporate Sponsorship no profit is made from the Festival.

- It was suggested that the issue of alcohol at the festival be discussed with the Fusion Festival Committee. It is their responsibility to take this into consideration, and some committee members do not feel it is appropriate to make a motion on this issue at the present time.
- The Committee reiterated the importance of Fusion Festival Committee making a recommendation to DAC, not the other way around. The Fusion Festival Committee has the expertise.
- Staff noted that there is no urgency to the matter; planning for next year will unfold and this concern will be brought forward to the Fusion Festival Committee their first meeting will take place in January. We want to be respectful of the work of all groups.
- Until an official letter is received from Tom Oleman and the new Executive Board of the Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society, this discussion is tabled.
- A member of the committee noted they do not support alcohol being permitted at the Fusion Festival.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

- The Committee questioned whether Council is looking at the impact of new refugees coming to Surrey. Councillor Martin advised that Council has not met since the summer recess and so this issue has not been discussed. Staff advised that the Surrey LIP and the City's Social Planning Committee are in discussion about developing a refugee strategy for the City, focusing on how to provide support. Strategy development and consultation with this committee will occur.

L. Larsen advised that the School District has been given another year to assist at the welcome centre for refugees. They provide information on the school system, riding the bus, how to cook, learning basic English. It is all dependent on government funding for settlement workers.

- Further discussion was held about Fusion Festival and the potential to look at commonalities rather differences. Some suggestions included a competition to create a song that embodies unification that could be sung at either the opening or closing ceremonies; and creating a list of values to compare similarities. On the other hand, the comment was made that the entire festival is a unifying event.

Staff noted that all suggestions will be taken into consideration.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Staff request that if Committee members have items for the agenda, they must be brought forward well in advance.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by M. Malik
Seconded by S. Sarbharwal
That the Diversity Advisory Committee

Carried

The Diversity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity Advisory Committee