

Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee – Minutes

new Cloverdale Rec Centre
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011
Time: 9:00 am
File: 0540-20

Present:

Councillor Martin
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
Dr. B. Gurm
C. Hong
B. King
J. Kovach
M. Malik
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Sabharwal
S. Scott-Phillips
E. Szücs
R. Takhar

Absent:

Chair – Councillor Rasode
Councillor Villeneuve
Mayor Watts
R. Asistio
I. Chatha, Surrey S.D.36
T. Oleman
M. Solorzano

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
K. Swanson, Manager, Community
Development Services
D. Nielsen, Acting Manager, Special Events
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by T. Ghuman
Seconded by M. Pyne
That the minutes of the Multicultural
Advisory Committee meeting of January 17, 2011, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Arts Umbrella – Youth in Arts**
File No. 7800-01

Sal Ferreras, Board of Director, Arts Umbrella, provided a presentation explaining the Arts Umbrella and why the Arts Umbrella wants to extend to Surrey, especially to focus on youth in the arts, in all forms (fashion music, dance), to incorporate all the many multicultural aspects and the growing population of Surrey.

The following comments were provided:

- The Arts Umbrella is here today to lobby for creating a Surrey-specific Arts Umbrella compliment that would work for this community and the children.
- It's about youth/kids. Children become part of a family of their colleagues and groups and they keep coming back over the years. It's about nurturing creativity which builds a lasting influence. Arts builds strong well rounded children.

- Two recent reports were done on education and arts education and how it affects our citizens, talking about childrens' ability to succeed and their understanding and abilities--all part of building a positive life and the move forward.
- Why Surrey? Surrey's commitment in the Strategic Plan to expand wherever possible, to make art education and cultural accessibility to as many kids as possible, and the early learning partnership with UBC. Market research on the entire area of Surrey and its six major regions and they talked to educators, business leaders, Councillors, politicians and teachers. It all pointed to "Go to Surrey."
- This is to launch at two locations: a 3,000 to 5,000 sq.ft. facility for visual arts studio and one multi-purpose studio, a 1,600 sq.ft. outreach facility for presenting visual arts.
- Visual, theatre and digital arts to deliver visual arts. To target 2-12 year olds; a teen program to be offered in September 2011.
- The funded outreach programs are targeted to Surrey's most vulnerable children.
- There is programming available to those who can pay and as well as to those who need funding.
- Lena Shaw Elementary will have the visual arts, and Mary Jane Shannon Elementary School will host a second year of spring camp.
- How you can help –
 - Support and encourage launching accessible arts education programs for kids in Surrey. We must invest to have our kids' success and our communities thrive.

Miriam Aiken, Senior Manager Special Projects for the Arts Umbrella commented that the intent is to make this available to as many people as possible but do not intend to cut into Surrey territory. The Arts Umbrella - Youth in Arts want to bring in a program that will build a community through arts. Sal has done presentations to all the Principals in the Surrey school district and Miriam has presented to the arts group in the school districts. The Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee is the first to see this presentation.

Sal noted that the Arts Umbrella do outreach to such as immigration and the multicultural societies and personnel from the two schools in the Surrey School District itself. They select the students to be brought into the program. Tuition based program is done through advertising, brochures and newspaper and concerts and festivals.

Langley music school is excellent and has one of the highest rates of students going on to post graduate education. There is a lot of dance and choral music in Surrey. We want to specifically address the visual, theatre and digital arts in Surrey. Word will be put out through sponsors (RBC, Westminster Savings and community newspapers and radio stations).

Committee member comments:

- Connie Hong manages programs for immigrant kids through Options and will connect with Sal Ferreras for an outreach program with the Somali immigrant children.
- The Surrey Fusion Fest is on July 18-19, 2011 – a cultural fest with performances. Thousands attend. Surrey is looking to get more kids involved. There is also the Children's Festival.
- Bill King thanked Miriam Aitken and Sal Ferreras and noted that Sal is very modest. Sal is from Porto Rico, a percussionist by trade, a producer and has been involved in every aspect of the music scene. He was Director of the Aboriginal House at the 2010 Olympics. He has spent many years in Canada, USA and Venezuela. He has collaborated with every musical organization in Vancouver. Emphasis the last 15 years has been International and Global music. Sal's latest association is with the Bangra Association--he really knows how to play drums! He is Dean of Music at Vancouver Community College.

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture thanked the delegation for their presentation and advised that at March 14, 2011 Finance meeting, Council approved the support of the Arts Umbrella to a commitment over the next 3 years of \$25,000 per year. This is due to the great foundation work done by the Arts Umbrella. Parks, Recreation and Culture is very pleased to be working with the Arts Umbrella who have a fantastic branded reputation. The Arts Umbrella's overall plan and wanting to provide program opportunities for those needing funding is very good and complements Surrey's services. This has all come about all due to the great foundation work done by the Arts Umbrella and its concerted efforts by their members.

Councillor Martin thanked the delegation for attending today. Their programs are fabulous and look forward to the future.

2. **Surrey Public Library**

File No. 7960-01

Ravi Basi and/or April Cox, Surrey Public Library, were to present the basics of a workshop on Intercultural Communication presented at the November 2010 Crime Prevention Conference.

Delegation *deferred to May agenda.*

3. **Cultural Safety Research at Surrey Memorial Hospital**

File No. 7710-01

Dr. Balbir Gurm provided a presentation regarding her research on **Cultural Safety** and study results of research done at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

The following comments were provided:

- Definitions – few statistics and results.

- Concept of culture, cultural safety, and survey findings at Surrey Memorial Hospital.
- Diversity, transfer the finding of the City to the different organizations.
- Definition of Culture – set of beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and policies to which people adhere.
- Definition of Cultural Safety -
 - Affirms respect and fosters the cultural expression of clients.
 - Interactions are respectful and maintain client dignity and self-concept.
 - The misuse of power between the service provider and the people who use the service.

Discussion was held regarding potential implications for assessing organizations and practical solutions to integrating resulting in one to one relationships.

- Cultural safety is very dependent on the understanding of the cultural issues. It is necessary to encourage cultural awareness and sensitivity to the human aspect.
- Have adequate resources for staff as a quick guide.
- Interpretation of a problem will result in how you handle a problem. Cultural and safety workshops should be offered to dispel assumptions, generalizations, stereotypes, power and privilege, communication beliefs and practices?
- Educate newcomers of different Canadian systems and how to behave. There is a fine line of what is discrimination and what is ignorance of the correct way of doing something. Communication skills will be a big part of it.
- This is Canada and Canada is our culture. Try to learn the Canadian culture and English language and not cry discrimination at the end of the day because you don't want to learn and respect the country of Canada.

Councillor Martin thanked the delegation and noted that we celebrate every event at the city hall. There is a vast diversity in our community of staff. 126 languages are spoken and offer Punjabi translation through our employee services. City of Surrey was named one of the top employers for the 10th year in a row.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Surrey Doors Open File No. 8000-01

Laurie Cavan provided the following update –

- Doors Open Events are happening across the country. Richmond has hosted events for the past 4 years. They connect with over 40 different locations across the city to look at locations with heritage, places of

worship, unique parks, artists studios or houses, with information sharing across the city and welcoming people to locations they might not otherwise go to. Richmond spends 7-8 months planning. Richmond's event this year will happen May 7-8, 2011.

- Richmond website:
<http://www.richmond.ca/culture/about/events/doorsopen.htm>
- Surrey plans to host such an event in Surrey in 2012 welcoming people into different venues as a great opportunity for the people of Surrey to learn about what we have.
- Preliminary meeting was held February 24, 2011 to discuss developing marketing materials, promoting to the community and different sponsors. Richmond provided a presentation and provided the committee with a full package of information to use.
- K.Polubinski and S. El-Nashar are on the Surrey Doors Open Committee working in partnership with the Social Planning Advisory Committee (Steve Dooley) and Heritage Advisory Committee. T.Ghuman has also volunteered to assist.
- The event does have a strong heritage component nationally. It can be opened to social services to connect.

Bill King departed at 10:30 am

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter, dated January 25, 2011 from Judy Smith, Director, Community Education Program Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, thanking the MAC for hearing their presentation regarding the **SFU Dialogue Program** at the January meeting.

G. INFORMATION ITEM

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Pakistan Independence Day** is being celebrated Friday, March 25, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the Crystal at York Banquet Hall. Dinner and entertainment.
2. **Connect new immigrants with long time residents** - Long time resident immigrants could connect with new immigrant neighbours to provide assistance and show them the ropes. Contact Connie Hong at Options.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for
May 17, 2011.

*{Post meeting note: meeting to be held at the North Surrey Recreation Centre, MP2,
10275 - City Parkway, Surrey}.*

j. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:32 am.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor B. Rasode
Multicultural Advisory Committee