

Diversity and Inclusion

Advisory Committee –

Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Rasode
Councillor Martin
R. Asistio
I. Chatha, Surrey S.D.36
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
Dr. B. Gurm
B. King
J. Kovach
M. Malik
T. Oleman
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Sabharwal
E. Szücs

Absent:

Councillor Villeneuve
C. Hong
R. Noble
S. Scott-Phillips
M. Solorzano

Staff Present:

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

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. It was Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by M. Pyne
That the minutes of the Diversity and
Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting of May 17, 2011 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. ***Soul of the World Multicultural Choir***
File No. 0550-20-10

Heidi McCurdy provided a presentation regarding the Choir. They offer music and singing programs, creativity and expressive arts workshops and arts integration for classrooms. The Choir celebrates diversity through the rhythms, poetry and harmonies of the world.

- *Harmony Expressive Arts* provides arts-based services that are fun, enriching, educational and/or therapeutic, promoting wellness for individuals and the community.
- The Choir started in November 2010 through an *Engage BC* program; singing world music is the soul of the multicultural choir. They sing North American folk songs in many languages: English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Maori, Japanese, German, Korean, Romanian, Hebrew, Russian, Greek, Israeli.
- The community choir model is used: inclusive, intergenerational, no auditions. They met weekly, learned songs and presented them in March.

- They did a project through Embrace BC and painted a map of the Soul of the World Multicultural Choir. Members placed a mark on the map of where they were born and where they now live. The funding finished in March 2011 but the Choir has continued to meet at Alexander Neighbourhood House.
- They have had street singing, arts and culture, and performed (a flash mob) at the Childrens' Festival and other places.
- Other school programs:
 - *Music Together* - an international music program that is research based on early childhood movement from birth to 5 years and has parent participation. The music is multicultural.
 - *Arts Integration* - in classrooms, learning through arts, run by Royal Conservatory of Music; they go into schools to work with teachers, music, drama, and creative arts. www.ltta.ca
 - Imaginative Writing Through Music (Language Arts)
 - Songwriting about Canada (Social Studies)
 - Animals and the Environment through Drama (Science)
 - Friendship Through Drama (anti-bullying and Social Responsibility)
- *Expressive Arts Therapy* – promoting personal growth and healing through creative self expression.
- Community Partners:
 - Alexandra Neighbourhood House
 - City of White Rock
 - City of Surrey
 - Semiahmoo Arts Council
 - Canadian Federation of University Women
 - Embrace BC

Heidi McCurdy welcomes any ideas for partnerships and funding.

Councillor Rasode commended the delegation on the presentation, noting that it is a positive initiative offering good programs and is multi-generational.

Committee Comments:

- Is there a focal point for amateur musicians to play together? Could that be expanded or incorporated, particularly if it is not one culture?
- Have the choir perform at the various city cultural events, particularly Fusion Fest and perhaps create some kind of community art.
- Councillor Rasode suggested that Heidi connect with the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture to explore additional opportunities in Surrey.

2. **Options BC New Settlement and Integration Services Model**

File No. 5080-01

Connie Hong, to provide a presentation on the new settlement and integration services model offered by Options BC.

DEFERRED to the November meeting.

3. Tynehead Overpasses - Public Art Illumination - Colour Pattern

A video of the illuminated overpasses in Surrey was shown. One overpass is located at Tynehead Regional Park and Highway 1, and the other is over Highway 99 near 32 Avenue. It is part of public art installations to have the overpasses illuminated. The connectivity provided by the overpasses enhances the pedestrian and cycling network in the City.

The artist is interested in suggestions for options on the colour programming. The Committee was asked to suggest colours that would reflect cultural events and celebrations.

The committee offered the following colour suggestions for ethnic events:

- Vaisaki – saffron and blue
- Christmas - red and green
- Lunar New Year – Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean – red and gold
- February - Black History Month – bright colours: Jamaican orange, black, red, gold, white
- Easter – soft colours
- National Aboriginal Day – black and red
- Canada Day – red and white
- Ramadan – green
- EID – multi colours, white
- Diwali – multi colours
- Hanukah – Star of David is blue and white, and reds
- How about choosing seasonal colours.

The focus is currently on the Tynehead overpass. The Walking and Cycling Plans recommend building overpass bridges to support pedestrians and cycling. These Plans are available on line.

The City of Surrey has piloted Private Developer contributions to public art, that supports additional public art installations in the City. It is a priority that all construction will have a public art component. The Surrey Arts Council has done significant work on this initiative and the City is making a thoughtful, conscious attempt to include public art, such as at the RCMP Detachment expansion and the Cloverdale statues.

Build City Brochure will be sent to Committee members.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Fusion Fest update

File No. 8200-20

The following was highlighted:

- A collage of photos of the 2011 Fusion Fest was presented.

- Congratulations to all who contributed and participated in making the 2011 Fusion Fest a success. Weather was not the best. Over 60,000 people came over the course of the weekend.
- There were more pavilions this year: 36 this year compared to the first year when we had 20.
- Additional stages were added this year, plus the Main Stage.
- The First Nationals area was a big success.
- Added this year:
 - Flavours of Surrey was introduced with additional local agriculture and food from different cultures.
 - The cooking stage with celebrity chefs.
 - Power Tech stage – bikes generated power.
- Contest for best pavilions (a friendly competition)
- Profiled the Build Surrey program at the Canada Pavilion.
- We are proud of all our many cultures in Surrey. Some evening concerts attracted huge crowds. We worked with security and the RCMP for a great event.
- Parking –People just filled in around the local community and used transit. There were no major complaints.
- Everything was okay except for the weather. Normally this particular weekend is the sunniest weekend in BC -- this year the weather presented a number of challenges for City Special Events.

Councillor Martin thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Planning for 2012 will begin soon. We appreciate all the support and input to make this such a significant event in the lower mainland.

Committee comments:

- Would it be possible to reduce the revenue split on concessions that goes to the City when there is poor weather conditions that affect the number of sales? *Staff responded that they will look into this for next year and the associated budget impact.*
- In future, in case of heavy rains like this year, it was suggested that the city come up with additional ways to manage the water and mud. *Staff noted that the field was built with the same drainage ability as a sports field with a sand base to drain water quickly, but there was just too much rain too fast this year. Significant repairs were required afterwards.*
- Fusion Fest is an important social event. People posted their own pictures on social media sites. It was requested that the City look at ways to enhance the social media elements of the Fusion Festival.

City staff will follow up on the recommendations of the Committee members.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Surrey Doors Open**
File No. 8000-01

DEFERRED from May.

The following comments were provided:

- Corporate Report went to Council for the event to be held next year.
- Committee members from DIAC and Social Planning Advisory will be attending meeting.
- Date to be determined - there are many special events in the city that finding the right date is important.
- A part time staff person will be appointed to support the event and event ideas provided from Eastern Canada and Richmond will be expanded upon.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEM****1. Arts Umbrella** - the Now newspaper article – July 21, 2011
File No. 7800-01**2. New Museum Exhibit – *Two Views: Photographs by Ansel Adams & Leonard Frank***
File No. 7800-01

The exhibit has a lot of photos of the lower mainland. Admission is free. Everyone is encouraged to drop by the museum.

3. Federal Inter-Action Grant for Museum Partnership
File No. 1855-01

The Surrey Museum received a grant from Citizen and Immigration Canada for a national partnership project in collaboration with the Canadian Museums Association and three museums in Ontario and Quebec. *Inter-Action*, Canada's new Multiculturalism Grants and Contributions program, assists in the socio-economic integration of individuals and communities by helping them contribute to the development of a socially cohesive society. Through participation in this heritage project, youth participants will learn about the role they can personally play in preserving and creating Canadian history at the local level to foster and build national and civic pride and to help them relate to their heritage.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Youth Transition Fair - Pancake breakfast**
October 22, 2011 - 8:30 am
Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre. 13458 – 107A Avenue, Surrey

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2011.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:00 am.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor B. Rasode
Multicultural Advisory Committee