

Present:

Chair – Councillor Rasode
R. Asistio
I. Chatha, Surrey S.D.36
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
M. Malik
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Scott
E. Szucs

Absent:

Councillor Martin
Councillor Villeneuve
Mayor Watts
Dr. B. Gurm
C. Hong
Corp. J. Hundial
B. King
J. Kovach
D. Lawrance
T. Oleman
K. Sanghera
M. Solorzano

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
K. Swanson, Manager, Community
D. Nielsen, Acting Manager, Special Events
J. Mann, Office of the Mayor
Beth Barlow, Chief Librarian
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services
Anna Mathewson, Sustainability

Guests:

Andy Block

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by M. Pyne

Seconded by S. Scott

That the minutes of the Multicultural

Advisory Committee meeting of May 18, 2010, be adopted.

Carried

B. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**1. Safe Harbour Project Program**

File No. 0250-20

The Safe Harbour Project program was presented to this committee by Lin Chen of DIVERSEcity at the April meeting. Kelsey Swanson provided the following update:

- Met with staff.
- Are providing different training opportunities to staff.
- This may become a collaboration of the cultural aspect, inclusion within the community, and what staff would be needed. Will keep MAC updated.
- Safe Harbour has a great program and will see what pieces will fit with Welcoming and Inclusive Communities.

General Manager, Parks Recreation and Culture suggested that this may be an opportunity to offer this training to the Committee members. Staff will look the possibility of doing some training internally.

2. Kids Conference

File No. 1400-03

Kelsey Swanson provided the following update:

- The Kids Conference is a mosaic of diversity.
- The Friday night has been added: *A world feast* through the culture of food. The menu is still to be determined.
- Friday, November 19-20, 2010, 3:30 – 8:00 pm
- There will be a demonstration of sledge hockey, multiple workshops on playability, country critters, henna magic, RCMP, a workshop on parks, library, and a dance -- a whole realm of activities.
- The Kids Conference has in past been a sold out event with a wait list. 175 young people attended last year. We are hoping that with the addition of the Friday night, we can accommodate more.
- Promoted through schools; the school district is on board and engaged. The event is free.

3. Welcoming & Inclusive Communities

File No. 4710-01

Kelsey Swanson provided the following update regarding Welcoming & Inclusive Communities:

- Grant applications went out to community. Committee is going through the applications next week.
- There are exciting programs with grants. The after school program going along well. Youth are extremely excited and piloted their programs in summer day camps. As soon as in the schools, we will have the Youth come in present to MAC.
- Exciting process to which staff have supported the Youth to handle racism, and discrimination in the schools. \$964,000 for Safe Schools will work with Welcoming and Inclusive Communities.
- Will be in all schools next April 2011. Looking for ways to sustain that through the same project.

Councillor Rasode sadly noted that MAC member Wally Sandvoss passed away August 29, 2010. A new volunteer will be needed to replace him on the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Committee, Maryann Payne volunteered.

4. Fusion Festival

File No. 8200-20

Dan Nielsen provided a report on the Fusion Festival. The following comments were provided:

- Fusion Festival 2010 was a success with attendance growing from 60,000 (2009) to over 90,000 (2010).
- There were six new cultural groups bringing the total to 30.
- This year we introduced the *best dressed* pavilion competition. The Polish community placed first, India second and Jamaica third.
- Kla-how-eya was well received. They hope to be able to organize another powwow next year.
- Corporate Events sponsorship was very good. Concord Pacific was pleased to be a part of the festival.

- We need to keep the entertainment fresh with a wide variety of entertainment and dance. The question was raised to bring ballet to the event. Staff will work with ballet organizations to explore this idea.
- Demos were very popular, such as yoga and the turban tying.

Committee comments:

- The Festival was a great event. Dan Nielsen did a great job. Excellent. Everyone was very happy and glad that Roby Rowe, the food and beverage guy and Dan were right there and were hands on. They are to be credited.
- The parade was a great thing. Would it be possible to expand on the parade next year? Is it possible to take the parade to the street and march into the park with it? Parades are a part of many communities and would be a great idea.
- Polish visitors said it was the best organized fest they have attended.

Dan Nielsen noted that the parade of countries has grown significantly from the first year. There are challenges with going onto a roadway. The parade is currently started at backstage and trying to coordinate that is tough enough. More resources would then be required from the pavilions as well. There would be more challenges to this, but if this is the direction the MAC staff will explore a larger opening ceremony. We want to draw attention to Holland Park as a celebration site.

It should be noted that in 2008 Surrey was named the Cultural Capital of Canada and the festival was federal government funded. Now it is funded at the municipal level.

Dan Nielsen gave a big thank you to all the volunteers and noted that the festival would not happen without the volunteers.

There is a time lapse video of the festival available for viewing.

<http://vimeo.com/groups/57217/videos>

Councillor Rasode thanked Laurie Cavan and her staff for their '*can-do*' attitude.

C. DELEGATION

1. New City Centre Library

File No. 0800-01

Beth Barlow, Chief Librarian was in attendance and provided a brief overview of the new building. The following comments were provided:

- The new City Centre and Library are something to be very proud of. Bing Thom architect likes to talk about it being "iconic". It will be 77,000 sq. ft. on four floors (three times the size of the Guildford library).
- The form work is being started. Pictures of the model by Bing Thom were shown and information handouts provided.
- Highlights -

- The new City Centre Library is a LEED certified green building. Has a roof with plantings on top – this is green and will contribute to the environment.
- Meeting spaces for a variety of community needs, ranging from large groups to consultation rooms for 2 people.
- 14 seat electronic classroom.
- Wireless internet access and 80 computers for public use.
- Teen lounge and gaming room.
- Popular print and online collections to meet the needs of local businesses and our growing community.
- A café serving coffee, tea, juice and snacks.
- Main floor –
 - Services for Read-ability people assisting shut ins and those who can't read and use audio books will be available on the main floor
 - Children's section with Story time area, a book fort with seating, shelving, spaces to crawl into with peek holes and things to look at.
 - Multipurpose room.
- Second floor -
 - A grand staircase; a regular staircase on one side and sit-able plank benches/steps on other side.
 - Top of stairs features world languages collection.
 - Group study rooms and two person consultation rooms as well (settlement workers may potentially work out of the libraries, and agencies may rendezvous in the library for easier access for people for tutoring, etc.).
 - Meditation room.
 - Lots of study reading space.
- Third floor -
 - Living room style with comfy furniture, a fireplace; a nice ambience.
 - Teen lounge with a closeable door (as a meeting room).
 - Quiet and Silent study areas.
 - Non-fiction collection.
 - "Ask us" information services and help with research.
- Fourth floor -
 - Genealogy library.
 - Continuation of the non-fiction collection.
 - Additional community meeting rooms (area with walls around it in a variety of sizes: 2, 6, or 20 capacity rooms).
 - South end of 4th floor (5,000 sq.ft.) will be leased out.
- Mr. Malik of this Committee also serves on the Library Board. He explained that: *"It will be a jewel and state of the art and of value to the City"*.
- Universal Principles of Design have been applied to the design. It will be fully accessible, have two elevators plus staff elevators. Washrooms will be fully accessible, a kid's washroom in the children's area, along with parent rooms.
- Construction is on track. Completion is expected the end of March 2011. Grand opening date to be determined but expected to take place in the Fall 2011.
- Meeting rooms will be available for events. Fees relate to the size of the space and what other libraries charge, and are in line with the Parks, Recreation and Culture community, private and commercial rates. Volunteer tutors will use the space free of charge, others charged a nominal fee. MAC will have rooms at no charge.

Committee comments:

- Congratulations. It will be a very beautiful building.

2. **Ballet BC 2012**

File No. 7800-01

Mr. Andy Block was in attendance to discuss Ballet BC and to promote opportunities for *dance* in Surrey. The following comments were provided:

- Mr. Block has lived in Delta for over 30 years. He is president of Delta Pacific Benefit Brokers, an employee benefit plan consulting firm which he founded in 1994. He believes in giving back to the community.
- He is a member of the North Delta Rotary Club, and is a founding member of the Delta Rotary Youth Awards. In 2007, he received the Governor General Caring Canadian Award for community service. He was fundamental in fundraising over \$100,000 for the Senior Centre Youth Facility in Fleetwood.
- Mr. Block is working with Ballet BC and the Bell Centre to bring ballet to the Bell Centre for the fall 2011.
- Dance is multicultural; he would like to make it a community event with a dance festival and celebrate our multiculturalism. He would need people who are interested in order to make it happen.
- He would need to see four things in place: Passion about it, be good for the community, see a beginning and end, and the resources need to be there in order to pull it off.

The GM, Parks Recreation and Culture noted the Fleetwood Seniors Park is one of Surrey's most successful parks. There is a very active dance community in Surrey, but there is still opportunity to grow that. She will connect him with staff, community members, and Surrey Festival of Dance people and report back to the Committee.

The Chair thanked Andy Block for his presentation.

3. **Sustainability Indicators**

File No. 6430-19

Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager provided a presentation regarding developing sustainability indicators and targets for the City of Surrey. The following comments were provided:

- The Sustainable Development Checklist was presented to this Committee in November 2009.
- We are working on the sustainability indicators and targets to monitor our progress on our Charter. It is a 50 year vision of sustainability.
- There are goals, framework, and actions. 56 actions were identified.
- There are the three pillars of sustainability: Socio, Economic and Environmental.
- The Charter states that the City's ability to achieve its vision requires the setting of targets and measuring progress towards the vision. Accountability and public reporting bring together existing measures into one place.
- Process – Charter commitment –

- A Task Force established from the community. The Task Force was geared to give input and advice on what should be reported on.
- Draft measures went to Council in June 2010.
- Target setting –
 - Drafted a list of indicators.
 - Discussed targets in Spring 2010 and are being developed with staff and community.
 - Going to the Task Force in early October 2010.
 - Long term aspiration targets - 2058 (eg: long term vision for homelessness).
 - Shorter term and stage targets – 2015, 2020, etc.
- A sample of what the dashboard will look like will be on the new city website.
- Of most interest to this group would be measures to diversity and inclusion – a sense of belonging and celebrating the different cultures in Surrey.
- On the Immigration side – census provided the data.
(Note: Council passed a motion in support of the long form census.)
 - Median employment compared to immigrants and non-immigrants.
 - Immigration in the City as it relates to employment specifically.
- Work still to be done?
 - Meeting with Task Force on October 8, 2010.
 - Report to go to Council November 1, 2010.

The Chair thanked Anna for her presentation.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Diversity - City of Surrey's New Website

File No. 1400-03

Laurie Cavan provided an update on the new website. The following comments were provided:

- The new website will go live on Monday, October 4, 2010.
- MAC members provided feedback on the website wants and needs. People wanted the Diversity website more front and centre. A lot of content was in the PRC area, and has now been moved to the front.
- Diversity and Inclusion site – lots of resources for people who are in Surrey and how they can access cultural events, resources, information, etc.
- IT have connected with Surrey cultural groups to get feedback.
- MAC members were encouraged to take a look at the website. It will be a live document. Are open to feedback.
- Email link: www.surrey.ca

Committee comments:

- The British Columbia Libraries have electronic books available for downloading. The library information desk can provide assistance:
- Library to Go Audiobook downloads: downloads.bclibrary.ca
 - Step 1: Install free software from the website
 - Step 2: Check out the book with your library card
 - Step 3: Download books to your computer
 - Step 4: Enjoy!

- Having "Inclusion" more prominent is what we have wanted all along. It is happening! Thank you. It is all so important.
- Youngsters should be taught that all citizens have a community responsibility to help and be ever mindful of those less fortunate.

The Chair noted that there was active participation from all. We are reviewing the MAC Work Plan and will talk about the MAC Work Plan in the next meeting and the direction that this MAC will take for 2011.

2. **2011 Draft Diversity Calendar**

File No. 7800-01

Staff at the city hall has done work regarding the diversity calendar and thanked everyone for their support. Nicola Webb provided the following update on the 2011 Multicultural Calendar for City Hall new website:

- The MAC was thanked for their ongoing support in the events.
- There are three events left for 2010:
 - November 8 – Diwali
 - December 19 – Hanukkah
 - December 20 – Christmas
- In 2010 we added Accessibility Day.
- Have seen an increase in staff leadership for these events.
- Sustainability was added.
- Next year staff will expand the intranet and employees will be requested to write about their culture.
- There will be an actual events calendar for definitive holidays with actual dates of the events and to the day that we plan to celebrate that event in city hall.
- Are requesting any feedback for improvements from the MAC Committee. The goal of these events celebrations is intended to help staff better understand all cultures. We do not publicize it as we do not seek to include the public.
- Please provide any comments directly to Nicola Webb, HR.

3. **FEST Application Process**

File No. 1850-20

Dan Nielsen, Chairperson for the Fest Committee, provided an introduction of the various elements of the FEST Application Process and how to increase inclusiveness. The following comments were provided:

- The Committee reviews larger events planned for private property and provides letters of permission from the City that would involve PRC, Engineering, Bylaws, RCMP, Fire, Ambulance and Ministry of Transportation
- The FEST Committee handles 120 events annually.
- Due to diversity in the city they have the direction of MAC Inclusiveness, Kelsey Swanson and Nicola Webb (General Manager, Human Resources) have prepared a document for the 'awareness' portion as raising awareness around inclusiveness is important.
- City of Surrey has five goals around Awareness:
 - i. Community
 - ii. Inclusion
 - iii. Integration

- iii. Integrity
- iv. Teamwork
- MAC members are requested to review the **FEST Application Process** and provide feedback. The FEST Committee is in support of this.

Committee comments:

- It was suggested that a workshop be provided on *how to raise awareness of inclusivity* and *how to organize an event* that is planned, promoted and delivered to be inclusive of all residents of Surrey.

Dan Nielsen to work with Kelsey Swanson on raising awareness and agreed that adding a segment on planning fests would be a good addition to the workshop. This suggestion may be incorporated into the Work Plan for 2011.

The Chair requested that the Committee members review the *special event* request form and provide feedback to Dan Nielsen (DNielsen@surrey.ca).

4. **Review MAC Work Plan**

File No. 0540-20V

General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture provided a review of the action taken from the 2009 MAC Future Focus of May 19, 2009. The following comments were provided:

- We accomplished all our goals!
- We are seeking feedback regarding the broad priorities that were important such as outreach, multicultural sharing, and action items, and comments on the website, fest application, and brochure, and for outreach of the document to the community.
- We outlined and introduced grass roots presentations to the Committee.
- All the delegations we have received and the actions there from.
- Let us know if we haven't reached some of our goals.

The Chair commented that we are proud of our work. This work has also had an impact on peoples' lives; people who are not so comfortable and entrenched in their community such as new immigrants, those suffering HIV, single moms. The Chair thanked everyone for their work.

- We are looking forward to our strategic planning session November 16, 2010. The working session will require a longer meeting, please block three hours and details we be forwarded in advance.
- Get comments to Laurie Cavan in two weeks. We will use it to work from for our work plan for 2011.
- We will be sending out notifications requesting all the MAC members to resubmit your intent to recommit to a further two year term with the MAC, if you are interested. We are asking people to resubmit and there are now some spaces, and to rejuvenate the Committee. The Terms of Reference will be included with the notifications.

E. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture noted that this is the first time in this new facility for many of the MAC members. She invited the members to pick up a brochure of the facility and have a look around. This coming Saturday, September 25, 2010, the *Forum on Senior's* will be hosted at the Chuck Bailey Rec Centre.

F. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. NEXT MEETING

The next Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2010.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:40 am.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor B. Rasode
Multicultural Advisory Committee