



# City of Surrey

## Multicultural Advisory Committee

### Minutes

Pondside Room  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008**  
Time: 9:15 a.m.  
File: 0540-20

#### **Present:**

Chair – Councillor M. Martin  
Councillor Higginbotham  
R. Asistio  
T. Ghuman  
Dr. B. Gurm  
H. Hong  
S. El-Nashar  
V. Pittakidis  
K. Polubinski  
D. Sandhu  
S. Scott  
M. Solorzano  
H. Stilwell, Surrey S.D.36  
E. Szűcs

#### **Absent:**

Councillor Villeneuve  
Mayor Watts  
N. Beuk  
Corp. J. Hundial  
B. King  
J. Kovach  
F. Kung  
M. Malik  
C. McBeth  
K. Sanghera  
M. Thompson

#### **Guest:**

Debbie Lawrance

#### **Staff Present:**

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources  
C. Amundsen, EA, Human Resources  
J. McLeod, Manager, Long Range Planning & Policy Development  
M. Allison, Senior Long Range Planner  
A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner  
V. Gonzalves, Fusion Festival Coordinator  
Rosy Takhar, Surrey RCMP  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

## **A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by Sandra Scott  
Seconded by Krystina Polubinski  
That the minutes of the Multicultural  
Advisory Committee June 17, 2008, be adopted, as circulated.  
Carried

## **B. DELEGATION**

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Multi-Cultural Sharing**

Presentation regarding diversity initiatives in the RCMP by Rosy Takhar, Surrey RCMP. Following are the comments provided:

- Handles outreach services
- Surrey demographics:
  - Population in the City of Surrey in 2006 census was 392,150. 452,000 in 2008
  - Approx. 46% identify themselves as visible minority. 28% (107,810 people) identify themselves as South Asian.
- Surrey RCMP is the largest in Canada with approximately 600 members, over 200 full time municipal staff, about 75 auxiliary constables (volunteers), and 10 community safety officers.
- Diversity Focus:
  - internal education to increase awareness of diversity issues

- external education to increase understanding of policing practices
- develop strategies for creating a more reflective workforce
- active engagement with diverse communities
- increased youth engagement and interaction
- Mosaic provides translators on line in a multitude of languages) through 9-1-1
  - Explain to your family members that they can just say: “Hungarian”/”Farsi”/”Norwegian” and they will automatically be routed to that translator.
  - Challenges -
    - The aging workforce is affecting the RCMP-- putting policing as a career choice and getting to reflective demographics; getting to all people as a career option; dispelling myths and understanding the process.
    - Balance between enforcement and prevention is always tough to navigate in terms of allocating resources.
  - Opportunities and Successes -
    - Auxiliary program demographics
    - Ethnic media outreach
    - Victim services organized “temple tours”
    - Community based recruiting strategies
    - Cross training opportunities for municipal staff
    - Increased cultural understanding and awareness
  - Continue to make sure we take reasonable steps to be an inclusive organization.
  - Continue to review policies, practices to ensure fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.
  - Continue to ensure residents feel safe in their homes and communities.
  - Committed to increasing awareness and education about our communities.

In response to queries the following comments were provided:

- Diversity and Outreach programs have been very successful.
- What can people do from their communities: If there is something of importance in the communities that requires more information for how the RCMP can get involved.

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks Recreation & Culture commended the RCMP for their openness to work with City staff.

The Chair thanked the RCMP and City staff.

## 2. Sustainability Charter

Judy McLeod, Manager, Long Range Planning and Policy Development and Mark Allison, Senior Long Range Planner provided a presentation regarding the Sustainability Charter.

- Draft of the Sustainability Charter is attached to the agenda package. The hope is to roll it out in the Fall 2008. Has been a privilege to work on this initiative and to make Surrey a more sustainable city.
- Council defined sustainability as meaning “*meeting the needs of the present generation in terms of socio-cultural systems, the economy and the*

*environment while promoting a high quality of life without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

- The Sustainability Charter will be the City’s overarching policy document, which will guide the actions of the City. In the absence of other specific policies, general policy direction will be taken from the Charter.
- A vision of the a sustainable city in built upon the set of goals that will the guide the City’s future actions and decisions and an action framework that is built upon the three pillars of sustainability, and three spheres of influence and short, medium and long term time frames.
- The “Scope of the Sustainability Charter” will be maintained as a living document that describes specific actions the City intends to take to support sustainability.
- Resident input was received on the need to look at the vision of a sustainable city that supports cultural events, activities and to increase understanding, tolerance and respect.
- There are Vision statements throughout the document that embrace access and diversity of cultures and promote active living, cultural opportunities, and promote society and related socio-cultural goals.

Councillor Higginbotham joined the meeting at 10:02am

- Starting immediately will be commencing with the establishment of a Sustainability Office – a person reporting to the Deputy City Manager – to coordinate the sustainability throughout the City. Staff in all City departments will be involved.

Councillor Higginbotham left the meeting at 10:15 am.

- 3 pillars of Sustainability: environment, socio-cultural, and economic. Economic sustainability needed to sustain and socio-cultural element important to live in a livable city. This creates a triple bottom line accounting that needs to be part of the decision making process.
- There are a lot of challenges to engaging the community on a number of levels and get the message to the different demographics, culture and language groups in order to achieve a sustainable city.
- Next steps will be to present a final draft of the Charter to Council (for release in the Fall 2008), the initial set up of the Sustainability Office and the set up of checklists to ensure triple bottom line accounting for development applications.

Committee members commented further:

- Review the OCP.
- Visions are goaled for 50 years. *“Today’s events are tomorrow’s history.”*
- There are 3 levels to demographic change: Community consultation and a process for diverse communities (age, cultural, ethnicity) rather than multiculturalism.
- Health Care is not Surrey’s primary responsibility but will be reflected in the Charter. Need to ascertain how to ensure that health care grows to meet the needs of the people and to ensure the “wellness” of people.
- How to reach the most influential communities when the language barrier

- prevents people from getting involved.
- Will ask the Multicultural Advisory Committee members for indicators and their help with the Outreach to the various communities.
- Time should be devoted to looking at the different ways to assess and measure diversity within the City.
- Diversity is growing within the City's own growing staffing numbers -- what languages we can offer services in. Measuring the growing change within our employment and how many grants we receive can provide a measure of internal diversity.
- Another way to measure is in the numbers of people who are moving to Surrey--this indicates a level of satisfaction.

Councillor Higginbotham returned to the meeting at 10:30 am.

- The Social Plan had 5 theme areas that makes recommendations as to what the City can do and to which staff have been advocating (particularly housing and crime, literacy). There are 25 different elements that are Provincial/Federal responsibility. The City is assuming a role and looking at the root causes and the impacts of why we are not getting a fair share.
- This brings to bear the important point that in how we measure our targets and indicators we are ensuring our measuring methodologies are accessible and appropriate. This is very a useful role that this Committee can play.
- The first meeting in September was suggested as a meeting to brainstorm the indicators and the action plan to get the sustainability charter launched. Judy McLeod, Manager of Long Range Planning will join the September meeting.
- Connie Hong will be working closely with New Comers and can measure through those 7 service agencies (serving 14 languages) in Surrey. Social Planning is documenting the services that are available and will have this information document by end of summer.
- The Chair asked that Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner connect with Ric Asistio to provide *who is providing what*.
- Work is underway to replace the term "literacy" with "learning".

The Chair commented that this was a very good discussion today and thanked Judy McLeod and Mark Allison for their presentation of the Sustainability Charter document. The document will be on the website. Feedback was requested be provided to Mark Allison or Judy McLeod as soon as possible for the document targeted completion date of July 28, 2008.

Councillor Higginbotham left the meeting at 11:05am and did not return.

#### **D. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

1. Recommending future Multicultural Advisory Committee representatives for a particular ethnic group for ratification by Council.

New representatives names will go before Council for ratification once per year. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

**E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

1. Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture introduced Vincent Gonzalves to provide an update regarding the Fusion Festival '08.

Vincent Gonzalves – Fusion Festival '08 is this weekend!

- JazzyB tickets are available for Friday night event only. This is a ticketed event due to concerns that this event may exceed the capacity of the venue.
- Saturday will be a Celtic theme and Sunday's highlight is Jolly Black.
- Opening ceremonies will be at 2:30 pm Saturday with a Parade of Colour and Drum Beat.
- 25 food and 35 cultural pavilions.
- World dance stage, and food and community stages.

Committee member comments:

- This will be an environmentally friendly food pavilion. Every pavilion will have recycling bins and will use recyclable cups, plates, and bowls.
- There will be a semi trailer full of ice available for purchase.
- Excited about Fusion Festival and thanked the staff for their work and responses.
- Information meetings should be held to ensure the directors of each pavilion and volunteers and participants receive all schedules and information
- All queries and requests should receive quick responses, particularly requests for performance schedules for bands and dancers, electrical concerns and health department issues.
- Health department issues information and requirements should be provided 2-3 weeks prior to the event.
- Laurie Cavan appreciates all the volunteers' time and efforts. City staff have been very busy planning the event and connecting with community members as it is a new event it has been a learning experience for those involved.
- City staff are doing their best in the next 4-5 days and are taking all the information and feedback from everyone.
- A post festival meeting will be scheduled to address "lessons learned". We want to make this an annual event.

The Chair thanked everyone for all they are doing. The Fusion Festival '08 will be a great event!

2. Aileen Murphy to provide a follow up update regarding the **Welcoming and Inclusive Cities Forum** regarding Dialogue – Settlement and Multiculturalism Discussion held on June 26, 2008.

**DEFERRED to September 16, 2008.** The information sheet on the Province's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities program was provided on table. This is a new program being launched by the Provincial Government to assist BC communities in becoming more welcoming of new immigrants. Funding will be available to support activities, with the first deadline for applications on August 25 and/or October 20 for the first component - Community Partnership Development. A discussion about the June 26 Creating Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Forum and this funding opportunity will be included on the agenda of the September MAC meeting.

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee scheduled for September 16, 2008 at 9:30 am at Pondsides.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Sandra Scott

Seconded by Emese Szűcs

That the Multicultural Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin  
Multicultural Advisory Committee