



# City of Surrey

## Multicultural Advisory Committee

### Minutes

Pondside  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008**  
Time: 9:06 am  
File: 0540-20

#### **Present:**

Chair – Councillor M. Martin  
N. Beuk  
T. Ghuman  
Dr. B. Gurm  
H. Hong  
Corp. J. Hundial  
F. Kung  
S. El-Nashar  
V. Pittakidis  
K. Polubinski  
W. Sandvoss  
S. Scott  
M. Solorzano  
E. Szucs  
M. Thompson  
D. Lawrance

#### **Absent:**

Mayor Watts  
Councillor Higginbotham  
Councillor Villeneuve  
R. Asistio  
B. King  
J. Kovach  
M. Malik  
C. McBeth  
D. Sandhu  
K. Sanghera  
School Trustee, Surrey S.D.36

#### **Staff Present:**

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

#### **Guest:**

Mrs. G. Sandvoss

## **A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 1. Minutes** of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting, September 16, 2008, to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Sandra Scott

Seconded by Nico Beuk

That the minutes of the Multicultural

Advisory Committee September 16, 2008, be adopted, as circulated.

Carried

## **B. DELEGATION**

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. To discuss common denominators that all ethnic communities can bring to this committee**

The following comments were provided:

The terms of reference should be revisited. The committee members come to these meetings full of information to share to make Surrey a more multicultural place.

- To do a review of the facilitator lead brainstorming session from April/May 2007 and compare accomplishments to determine the priorities for 2009.

- Ensure we have a good awareness of what other community initiatives are within the City to ensure we are not duplicating efforts from other groups. To leverage all initiatives offered by the City to ensure there is the diversity in the services offered.
- Staff to consider the suggestion that it may be advantageous to meet with the other Committees to determine how we can benefit and build on each other's work.

## 2. **Respectful Workplace**

Nicola Webb, General Manager, Human Resources provided the following comments:

The City has 2 policies in support of diversity – the Human Rights Policy and the Respectful Workplace Policy. Are seeking input on how best to inform the Committees of these policies.

Committee member suggestions:

- Have a five-minute session at end of each meeting for the sharing of ideas.
- Use basic principles and incorporate into Committees and staff.
- Cultural learning committees – perception of what is correct here may not be correct elsewhere in the world.

The Chair thanked the members for the comments.

## 3. **Cultural Celebrations at City Hall**

The following comments were provided by Nicola Webb, General Manager, Human Resources, and Kelsey Swanson, Community Development Services:

- All city staff is welcome to the City celebrations on diversity. Typically at a celebration, Councillor Martin speaks, the Mayor speaks, there is a cultural discussion, and entertainment. Displays are set up using cultural symbols and other recognition materials.
- In response to the question posed to the Committee – on the list of holidays, the following celebration should be added:
  - Black History Month – February
- The City has made some very good contacts with the community so that celebrations are more broad and connecting.

Committee comments:

- With the numbers of ethnic communities there may be the need to look at a different model as the years go by and hold a monthly celebration for all communities.
- Could hold an annual concert at the Arts Centre and display works of art. A display of art could stay for one month and the different communities could bring one artist from each culture.
- For the benefit of the smaller cultural groups, there could be a multi cultural month in Surrey within City Hall.
- The last week of June is multicultural week.
- Get the School District involved and have students do research projects into their own heritage.

- The concern was raised whether we are celebrating religion or celebrating the people. Can we do culture without religion?

Staff comments:

- We are looking at the total culture, which may include religion. Understanding and respecting other religions and cultures is the balance we are trying to find.

The Chair thanked staff for their presentation.

## 2. Fusion Festival debrief – Nov 6, 2008

An evaluation meeting was held with the Fusion Festival Committee:

- Event was a great success. Community feedback and exit interviews provided positive feedback.
- Goal of bringing Surrey's diversity together at one event was quite successful
- 100 artists and performances.
- 60,000 attendees over the 3 days, a positive event.
- Highlights include Korean performers, Chinese Spectacular, aboriginal drummers, kids craft area, , heritage walk, fire show, JazzyB, Chieftains, and July Black.
- Great media partners – positive image building for City of Surrey. Food sales totaled \$135,000 at event.
- Feedback areas to improve on –
  - Expand entry points.
  - Rearrange some areas and organize some pavilions to better sites.
  - Logistics: water locations and challenges with the health organization prior to opening.
  - Advertise more on TV and on multi cultural radio stations.
  - There was a need for more shading and seating out of sun on the site.
  - Loading and unloading to pavilions – offer more support through use of dollies and golf carts.
  - Invite more people to participate at the *parade of colour* at opening ceremony.
  - Provide menus at ticket booths.
  - Have authentic cultural items being sold at pavilions.
  - Address the long lineups for henna, face painters, Luna artist, etc.
  - Committee wants to keep it as a free event.
  - Looking at similar dates for next year: July 18, 19 (Sat/Sun) but not the Friday night.
- Will be asking for expression of interest from Committee members for next year's involvement on the Fusion Festival Committee (a sub-Committee of MAC).

Committee comments:

- Provide volunteer appreciation by providing a certificate of participation. Put more focus on the volunteers.
- Consider building water fountains into the park. Irrigation system in there already. More fountains to be built into our parks in an effort to reduce plastic bottles and increase sustainability.

- Hold a meeting of the vendors to discuss pricing of food and activities to participate in. Vendors would like more say into the pricing and portion sizes of the food vendors are being asked to provide to ensure the event is financially worthwhile.
- Recruit volunteers through our schools as students need volunteer hours as part of the school curriculum.

Councillor Martin thanked everyone for the valuable input as we are gearing up for 2009 Fusion Festival.

## **D. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

## **E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. PRC Diversity Outreach**

Kelsey Swanson, Section Manager, Community Development Services provided a presentation on Diversity Outreach. The following comments were provided:

- Outreach programs are happening in the community: Options, DIVERSEcity, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Surrey School District, PICS, Kla-how-eya, Umoja Operation Compassion Society.
- Surrey's Intercultural Diversity Vision: *Engaging our diverse community by facilitating the development of accessible and inclusive Parks, Recreation and Culture Opportunities.*
- Surrey's Intercultural Diversity Mission Statement: *We accept and celebrate differences amongst people and strive to foster positive change within our evolving community.*
- There are currently 115 languages being spoken in our schools.
- We facilitate staff training to increase their understanding of diversity.
- Get seniors out of their homes and into public activities to engage with peers through activities, chair exercises classes, etc. which reaps social, physical and mental benefits.
- Some projects and initiatives for 2008-09 –
  - Target isolated south Asian seniors
  - Newcomers welcome folders. Recreational centres are significant places within our communities. Each community centre will host groups and individuals to make sure people understand what services are available (leisure access program, English conversation, and information on happenings within the community.)
- Intercultural diversity website –
  - A new look and page on the website
  - Has useful community resources and links
  - Has special event information
  - Has translation of important documents and forms in Surrey's top spoken languages

- Volunteer opportunities are a big thing. There are many well educated newcomers but their credentials are not recognized in Canada. This is a rich resource of volunteers, who in turn receive work experience.
- City Hall cultural events –
  - 12 events are hosted at City Hall.

Committee comments:

- Diversity does so much for this area. Community development falls under the Parks, Recreation & Culture category and is citywide and a part of the multicultural diversity. Make the link more prominent on the web page.
- One of the programming ideas could be a “life review” for seniors as this has shown there to be an improvement in people’s lives when talking about their pasts.

The Chair thanked staff for the presentation and noted that it is important to understand what the city programs offer to our community.

## G. INFORMATION ITEM

1. Proposed **2009 Schedule of Meeting Dates** adopted.

It was

Moved by Emese Szucs

Seconded by Sandra Scott

That the Multicultural Advisory Committee

adopt the 2009 Schedule of Meeting dates as amended.

Carried

### **2009 Schedule of Meeting Dates:**

January 20

March 24

May 19

July 14

September 15

November 17

2. Surrey Community Forum with Films and Panelists will be presenting a film; *Marking our History since Komagatamaru* on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at 1:30 pm, at Conference Rooms G 1205A and G 1205B, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 12666 72nd Ave., Surrey.

## H. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee scheduled for January 20, 2009 at 9:00 am at Pondsider.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin  
Multicultural Advisory Committee