



City of Surrey

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Minutes

Pondside Meeting Room
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chair – Barinder Rasode
Councillor M. Martin
Councillor Villeneuve
T. Ghuman
Dr. B. Gurm
H. Hong
B. King
F. Kung
S. El-Nashar
M. Malik
V. Pittakidis
K. Polubinski
K. Sanghera
S. Scott
E. Szucs
M. (Thompson) Pyne
W. Sandvoss

Absent:

Corp. J. Hundial
T. Oleman
Mayor Watts
R. Asistio
J. Kovach
D. Sandhu
M. Solorzano
School Trustee, Surrey S.D.36

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
J. Thibadeau, Comm Srvc Devel
A. Murphy, Sr. Social Planner
B. Barlow, Surrey Public Library
R. Basi, Surrey Public Library
N. Van Eeden Petersman, Office of the Mayor
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

ROUND TABLE INTRODUCTIONS were made and a brief orientation provided.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Committee members are requested to elect a Vice Chair for the 2009 calendar year.
Role of Vice Chair was explained. Nominations were made. Election ballots destroyed.

Vice-Chair 2009: Councillor Mary Martin

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Wally Sandvoss
Seconded by Dr. Balbir Gurm
That the minutes of the Multicultural

Advisory Committee November 18, 2008, be adopted, as circulated.

Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Surrey Neighbouring Faiths Programs**

David Dalley, Program Coordinator provided an update on the pilot project.

The following comments were provided:

- The context of the program is to provide the community children and their families with an opportunity to meet and tour the facilities of different faiths in Surrey.
- Pilot program began in the fall 2008. It is open to families with children aged 4-6.
- Families visit a variety of faith communities in Surrey. Have visited to date:
 - o Baha'i Faith
 - o Buddhism
 - o Christianity – St. Johns Strawberry Hill United Church
 - o Hinduism
 - o Islam
 - o Mormon
 - o Sikhism
 - o Unitarianism
- Program goals -
 - o To have fun and memorable experiences with the people from the different faith communities
 - o To visit different religious buildings in Surrey
 - o To build connections among families
 - o To empower families to raise knowledgeable and caring kids in our multicultural and multi faith communities.
- Feedback from this program shows that this program has exceeded expectations.
- Looking ahead to providing a presentation to the School District.
- Working in continued partnership with the Surrey Public Library.
- This committee can help by:
 - o Join us. There is no cost.
 - o Sign up electronically to receive updates.
 - o Tell people about the program.
 - o Forward ideas for publicizing the program or funding the program to David Dalley – info@snfp.ca

Councillor Martin wished the Multicultural Advisory Committee members a Happy Lunar New Year and distributed multi-faith calendars.

2. Surrey Public Library web site on Resources for New Canadians

Ravi Basi, Surrey Public Library provided a presentation on the library's new website on Resources for New Canadians. Following are the comments provided:

- Libraries are very different environments now, being vibrant, energetic and noisy community centres.

- Surrey Public Library (SPL) has been in place for 25 years and has increased and expanded services.
 - o *New Canadians* page on the SPL website provides information of interest to new Canadians. Links were created to such sites as:
 - Citizenship information in 9 different languages
 - ICBC driving practice test on line
 - ESL resources on line
 - How to get credentials (many links)
 - Links to settlement agencies (Options, etc.)
 - Health information in different languages (e.g.: cancer, Healthy Kids, heart & stroke, Canada's food guide)
 - Legal information in different languages (dial-a-law, abuse, child protection, court order, etc.)
 - o Collections of books in 15 different languages (fiction, non-fiction, health/computers). ESL collections are wide in each branch.
 - o World newspapers – access to thousands of newspapers on line.
 - o World link – Queen's Public Library in New York – on line links to a variety of topics (e.g.: languages).
- Staff adapt to new information. Have developed a workshop for staff to provide additional strategies and better serve multicultural communities. Have designed five of our own interactive workshops, with 15-20 people attending each: Culture, Racism, Discrimination, Stereotypes, and Problem Solving.

Committee comments:

- Multicultural services are partners with settlement working groups. The Library is working with them on an application to get funding for services to get them closer to the people and continues to add services for the community. Clients wishing to donate books can bring them to library to be reviewed for suitability.
- Black History month is happening in February. Storytelling – Isiuwa Aimiose, who has joined the Library as a Director, has organized the storytelling.
- A lot of Outreach is being done (radio and TV advertising) to get the information on the library out to the community. The website is getting a lot of hits and use. It is important to talk about strengthening the whole website for the City for strong links between the City and the Surrey Public Library.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Forum

Aileen Murphy provided a brief presentation regarding the Forum on Welcoming and Inclusive Communities that was held June 26, 2008.

- The committee was invited to appoint a representative from the Multicultural Advisory Committee to sit on the partnership.
- A 3-year program – encouraging municipalities and the Province to participate. Program has 4 components. The Province is providing funding:
 - o 1st component \$15,000

- 2nd – \$50,000
- 3rd – \$50,000
- 4th – \$250,000
- Surrey to partner with the Surrey Foundation. Have hired consultant Penny Hanford to work with the City and the Surrey Foundation. Over the next few months we need to pull together a committee of community leaders from aboriginal community, businesses, labour and social services and create an action plan.
- The Multicultural Advisory Committee is to appoint a representative. The initial planning meeting will be held in the next two weeks to decide what the meetings will entail. Assume the meetings will be held during the workday.
- The *disabled* need to be represented.
- Volunteer representatives:
 - Emese Szücs – representative, and
 - Sireen El-Nashar - alternate.

D. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Emese Scücs – The Annual Health Cultural Fair is coming February 21, 2009 at the Cultural Centre.
2. Sandra Scott – February is Black History month. There is a celebration at the Peoples Gospel Church, 14455 – 104 Ave Surrey, on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS / UPDATES

1. Leisure Access Program and Policy; feedback from MAC –

Laurie Cavan provided a copy of the Leisure Access program. The scale of the program: 14,000 individuals within Surrey qualify for the program, 50% are children. Every child has the right to play and use the facilities.

Jerome Thibaudeau, Community Services, Section Manager of Business Operations provided the following comments:

- A number of changes have been made to the policy to reduce the barriers.
- Eligibility: must be a Surrey resident at a certain income level to receive free entry to facilities for drop in opportunities including: swim, skate, gyms, fitness rooms; 75% discount for registered programs.
- Doing more promotion of the program to increase awareness. Have received a 20% increase in program participation over the past year.
- Partnering with various agencies.
- Also implemented through community school partnerships (inner city schools).

In response to queries the following comments were made:

- Refugee claimants would qualify through income application.
- GM of Parks, Recreation & Culture to look into those refugee claimant children who do not have the documents needed to apply to the Leisure Access program.
- Applications are accepted at any facility front desk.
- Require Notice of Assessment and GST Rebate to prove income and family unit in order to receive one-year full facility pass. Apply annually. Revenue Canada information is the guiding body for deeming eligibility and definition of a family.
- Outreach is in the schools, with school art and sport programs as well as heritage and the arts.

The Chair thanked Parks, Recreation & Culture for their presentation.

2. 2008 MAC Accomplishments – Laurie Cavan/Nicola Webb

Deferred to next meeting.

Committee members are requested to review the list of accomplishments to set the stage for the next meeting. Asking members to reflect on:

- What they feel went well in the past, keeping in the mind the objectives of the Committee and the terms of reference.
- What initiatives would members like to see this Committee involved with and advise what could be the greatest value to the City?

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

1. Full DiverseCity calendar.
2. January 26, 2009 - Lunar New Year: Chinese and Vietnamese.
3. February is Black History Month.

H. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee is scheduled for March 24, 2009 at 9:00 am at Pondsides.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by Dr. B. Gurm
Seconded by Emese Szücs
That the Multicultural Advisory Committee

Carried

The Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Jane Sowik, City Clerk

Councillor Rasode, Chair
Multicultural Advisory Committee