

# Multicultural Advisory Committee – Minutes

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**Present:**

Chair – Councillor Rasode  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Villeneuve  
I. Chatha, Surrey S.D.36  
S. El-Nashar  
F. Kung  
D. Lawrance  
V. Pittakidis  
K. Polubinski  
M. Pyne  
D. Sandhu  
K. Sanghera  
W. Sandvoss  
S. Scott  
E. Szücs

**Absent:**

Mayor Watts  
R. Asistio  
T. Ghuman  
C. Hong  
Corp. J. Hundial  
B. King  
J. Kovach  
Dr. B. Gurm  
M. Malik  
T. Oleman  
M. Solorzano

**Staff Present:**

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources  
James Monk, Community Outreach Services  
K. Swanson, Manager, Community  
Development Services  
D. Nielsen, Acting Manager, Special Events  
E. Keurvorst, Sr. Communications Specialist  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting, March 31, 2009 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by S. Scott

That Multicultural Advisory Committee

minutes of March 31, 2009 be adopted.

Carried

**B. DELEGATION**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Community Grass Roots – Multicultural sharing

**D. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

The Chair thanked staff for their role in running the workshop at the last meeting, and for the resulting report.

**1. 2009 MAC Future Focus**

File No. 0540-20V

Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture and Nicola Webb, General Manager, Human Resources provided a summary of the last meeting regarding the 2009 MAC future focus. Copy attached for review.

The 2 key priorities and the 5 action steps were discussed and confirmed:

- Priorities
  - (i.) Greater amount of community outreach and
  - (ii.) Multiculturalism, harmony and sharing
- Action items
  - (i.) Enhance website (including posting key diversity events in the city)
  - (ii.) Understand the Fest application process and enhance inclusiveness
  - (iii.) Develop a brochure for the community on inclusiveness
  - (iii.) Re-establish grass roots presentations
  - (iv.) Scheduling some committee meetings out in the community
  - (v.) Promote cultural groups to meet and celebrate cultures in community centres (meeting places)
  - (v.) Outreach and connectivity with smaller cultural groups

Committee comments:

- Would like MAC to encompass more than just ethnicity. This currently falls under PRC but feels it should be a program on its own and should be present in everything that the City does.
- Staff noted that this goes beyond PRC. Inclusiveness is throughout all departments. Staff want to ensure any policy recommendations go across the City to ensure diversity.
- Look to contributions by Committee members as they are the advocates for their community groups. *Diversity* goes beyond the heritage and ethnicity.
- PRC will look at the City policy and explore funding options for the smaller groups that don't have funds. There is funding for non-profit groups and lower rental rates currently in place.
- Affording rental space is a concern shared by many non-profit organizations. The suggestion was made that the non-profit groups work together to see if they can find a solution.

**2. Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces: Community Partnership Development**

File No. 4710-01

Committee members Emese Szücs and Sireen El-Nashar participated in the workshop. E.Szücs provided the following comments:

- Various community representatives with a variety of backgrounds came together to discuss how to provide welcoming and inclusive communities and workplaces for new immigrants.
- Felt that the topic was well explored but focused more on multiculturalism from the perspective of immigration and refugees than addressing issues faced by those new Canadian residents who are no longer immigrants but still have needs for such services within the community.
- The project will have several phases.

The General Manager of Parks Recreation and Culture noted that the City is supportive of the Vision statement "...to have an inclusive, accessible and safe community". This is an opportunity for this Committee to record that comment to ensure the scope of grant applications in future will address this concern.

The Multicultural Advisory Committee supported the vision statement and wanted to ensure the grant applications identify programs and support an inclusive community for all.

### 3. 2009 Fusion Festival Update

File No. 8200-20

Dan Nielsen, Acting Manager Filming and Special Events provided a presentation highlighting current plans for the 2009 Fusion Festival.

Committee input was sought and the following comments were provided:

- Last year's Fusion Festival was a good kick off to future fusion festivals. 2009 Fusion Festival will be held July 18 & 19 at Holland Park.
- 60,000 attendees in 2008. The event received one time funding from the Cultural Capitals of Canada. It is a free community event.
- Last year saw 20 cultural communities involved, this year will have 24.
- Need 100 volunteers. James Monk is the contact.
- There will be several main stages and food stages.
- Last year's event was a great event. People spent the whole day there but it was noted that there was insufficient seating or shaded places to rest. Holland Park is currently undergoing some renovations and improvements that will address this concern.
- The Aboriginal Village and the Kids Zone will be relocated into the main area of the park.
- Local community planning has been very helpful in finding artists. Should committee members feel that there is someone or something we should pursue, it will be considered to see if it fits in with the programming and budget.
- The City's long term vision is for the community to be more involved in establishing a festival society to take the leadership role in the future.
- Dan encouraged everyone to come out.
- The website will be launched in the next few days with list of actual cultural organizations who are participating.

Committee comments:

- There are many cultural communities not represented.
- Would like to see more city staff and group involvement.

- Forming an umbrella group for the different cultural groups to secure a multicultural centre for use by all is a very good idea.

The Chair thanked Dan Nielsen for his presentation.

#### **4. Volunteering at the City of Surrey**

File No. 2830-01

James Monk, Community Development Services, provided a presentation regarding the extensive volunteer training program that the City of Surrey has. The City is continually looking for ways to enhance the program and attract more volunteers. The Committee was asked to provide input as to how best to attract volunteers from all communities within Surrey.

The following comments were provided:

- There is a volunteer tracking system that was created in 2008.
- Vision: *"to build a healthy cohesive community through a wide system to involve volunteers within the Parks and Recreation department."*
- Lots of opportunities through Surrey Leisure Guide: Partners in Parks – over 600 parks in Surrey. Volunteering with the City of Surrey on website (Under Living in Surrey. Has its own bullet.)
- City of Surrey will be continuing their own recruitment for Surrey Olympic Celebration volunteers (apart from VANOC).
  - Volunteer applications are now electronic [www.volunteer.surrey.ca](http://www.volunteer.surrey.ca)
  - Volunteer Development Workshops Fee - \$30 – full day, \$15 – half day.
  - Volunteer Centre in Surrey – Community Development Services, #111 – 10277 135 Street (under the Central City Skytrain station).
  - Workshops are offered twice per year: January and October.
- All outreach goes through Community Development Office.
- Staff willing to go out to groups to speak to highlight volunteering opportunities available.

#### **F. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **G. INFORMATION ITEM**

#### **H. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee scheduled for July 14, 2009 at 9:00 am. Location TBD.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by E. Szücs

Seconded by S. Scott

That the Multicultural Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:00 am.

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Jane Sowik, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor B. Rasode  
Multicultural Advisory Committee