

Present:

Vice-Chair - Councillor Martin
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
D. Lawrance
M. Malik
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Scott
E. Szucs

Absent:

Chair – Councillor Rasode
Councillor Villeneuve
Mayor Watts
R. Asistio
I. Chatha, Surrey S.D.36
C. Hong
Corp. J. Hundial
B. King
J. Kovach
T. Oleman
D. Sandhu
K. Sanghera
W. Sandvoss
M. Solorzano

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
K. Swanson, Manager, Community
Development Services
D. Sadler, Child & Youth Engagement
Coordinator
M. Imandar, RCMP Diversity Coordinator
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by M. Pyne
Seconded by S. El-Nashar
That the minutes of the Multicultural
Advisory Committee meeting of March 23, 2010 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. Safe Harbour Program Project

File No. 0250-20

Lin Chen of DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society's was in attendance and provided a presentation on the **Safe Harbour Program** project. This project promotes an inclusive BC that builds community support for diversity, and the idea of moving past acceptance to an understanding and celebration of diversity, resulting in safer and more welcoming communities.

The following comments were provided:

- The *Safe Harbour: Respect for All* programs emerged in 2004 due to the dedication of one of AMSSA's member agencies in Nanaimo, the [Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society](#) and their Action for Diversity team.
- Welcome BC and BC Ministry of Advanced Education and new market development; there are 24 markets in BC coordinated by AMSSA.
- *Safe Harbour* is about **vision in action**: creating opportunities for storefront businesses, institutions, agencies, and entire municipalities to celebrate our

differences, helping to create safer, more welcoming communities that support diversity and reject discrimination.

- Lin Chen of DIVERSEcity runs workshops to local businesses and agencies to introduce the concept of diversity.
- The Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of British Columbia (AMSSA) is not for profit and partners with RONA, TD Canada Trust, Royal Bank, VanCity, London Drugs, The Sandman Suites and the David Suzuki Foundation to deliver Safe Harbour.
- Safe Harbour recognizes respect and equitable treatment for all cultures, abilities, sexual orientation, religions, agencies and genders.
- To qualify, a business and staff participate in a free 2-hour interactive orientation workshop and commit to three commitments and are requested to display a colourful window decal and brochures, postcards or bookmarks, as appropriate in their places of business.
- Safe Harbour is about raising awareness about diversity and the different ways that diverse groups experience living in our community. It discusses stereotypes, biases and privileges and a way to explore simple steps to take a stand against discrimination, harassment or distress; and to provide a temporary refuge to lead them in the direction of help.
- The three commitments include:
 - Equitable treatment: Treating all of their clients and/or customers in an equitable manner. If a concern is expressed regarding a lack of equitable treatment, staff members take this concern seriously.
 - Providing a safe harbor: Being a *temporary* safe place where a community member who has experienced mistreatment will receive a helping hand, such as a place to sit, a telephone to use, and information on how to seek further assistance.
 - Prepared employees: Preparing all employees to welcome and celebrate diversity, and assist those who require refuge from discrimination.
- Samples of Safe Harbour locations in Surrey:
 - Options
 - Immigrant Services
 - *DIVERSEcity*
 - Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Who lives in this community? Newcomers, refugees, immigrants, aboriginal people, religious/faith based groups, LGBTTQ Women's Support Group, homeless, teen/tweens, youth, singles parents, young families, seniors, elders, people with various abilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Safe Harbour businesses that are committed know that management and staff are better able to adapt to the changing face of their community. Appeals to customers who want to demonstrate their support of an organization that understands and respects their needs and values; Safe Harbour attracts employees from diverse backgrounds: immigrants, many minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTTQ Women's Support Group, and aboriginals.
- How to become involved? E-newsletter: nationalsafeharbour@amssa.org
- On line: www.safeharbourblog.wordpress.com
- Website: www.safeharbour.ca
- This is a national program currently running in Alberta, BC, Manitoba, and Newfoundland.
- The hope is to push the message across and making workplaces more welcoming.

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- The Surrey School District received a grant for youth of \$3 Million over the next three years. Teresa Campbell is with Safe Schools (SAME), and Lynn Robertson is the lead person on the program. The SAME program may contain a mix of the elements that Safe Harbour is looking for.

The GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture advised the committee members that the City of Surrey, as a major employer, will review the Safe Harbour Program and will look into providing a workshop within the City.

DIVERSEcity staff has spoken with the Surrey Board of Trade. Emese Szücs, Past Chairman of AMSSA, strongly suggested that the City of Surrey implements this program as the program is amazing. It is specifically designed for creating safe places for people and would be good for the City as a whole, for clients and staff. AMSSA could provide the information.

Councillor Martin thanked the delegation for the information and presentation.

2. Sandra Scott-Phillips, MAC committee member provided a presentation on **Jamaican** history and community.
File No.

The following comments were provided:

- A brief synopsis of Jamaica's history was provided -
 - The first Jamaican peoples were Spanish speaking. The meaning of the word 'Jamaica' is *land of wood and water*.
 - With the arrival of Columbus began 500 years of European occupation.
 - Spanish Town is the island centre.
 - In the 1650's Jamaica was captured from the Spanish; the Maroons (ex slaves) continuously defied new colonizers; they were the only army to ever defeat the English.
 - Jamaica was a centre of commerce in the 1770's and a haven for Spanish looting by pirates. Port Royal was a popular gathering place with one tavern for every 10 residents – rum ruled.
 - A massive earthquake in 1692 claimed 2,000 lives.
 - Under British rule Jamaica was busy and wealthy; it was a jewel of the British crown.
 - There were many large sugar plantations. Slavery was abolished in 1834; with the Emancipation Act many labourers left Jamaica. China and India peoples were indentured, resulting in an eclectic mix of peoples.
 - In 1838 after sugar production declined there was diversification of crops and other industries and exports.
 - The politics changed in 1866. Social disappointment festered and heralded the birth of the trade union movement: Peoples National parties and Labour parties. The Labour party is currently in power. Democracy rules.
 - Jamaica attained independence from British rule in 1962.
- In 2012 Jamaica will have a 50 year celebration of its Independence. Jamaica will be 50 years old and has a lot of growing and development to do.
- The Queen's English is the taught language, but there are many dialects spoken amongst the Caribbean islands.

- Teaching the children about the Jamaican history is essential.
- A five minute video on Jamaica was viewed.
- A map of Jamaica was viewed. Jamaica is situated 90 miles south of Cuba, between Haiti and Cuba; Bahamas is further to the north closer to Florida. Jamaica has 3 regions -
 - western: Cornwall
 - central: Middlesex
 - eastern: Surrey
- Jamaica's population today is approximately 2.6 million--more Jamaicans are now living outside of Jamaica than inside. The largest concentrations of Jamaicans reside in Winnipeg and Toronto. 15,000 Jamaicans live in the lower mainland. From December to April each year there are direct flights to Jamaica.
- Main industry is tourism, exports and agriculture (can't make enough ginger to export).
- Famous personalities who emigrated to Canada include -
 - Rosemary Brown, (1930-2003) immigrated to Canada at age 20 to study at McGill, married and settled in Vancouver. She entered politics and raised her family.
 - Parents to Lincoln MacCauley Alexander (b.1922), served as 24th Lt. Governor of Ontario.
 - Bob Marley – Reggae singer/poet
 - Collin Powell – Former Secretary of State in USA – his family still owns property in Jamaica
 - Harry Belafonte – Singer, song writer
- Upcoming events and opportunities to enjoy Jamaican heritage -
 - February - Annual gospel concert to celebrate Black History month.
 - August 1, 2010 – to host a cultural festival in Holland Park with reggae music and calypso music, food. A free event that is to be built into a great tourist attraction.
 - Saturday, August 7, 2010 – Banquet in celebration and recognition of the 48th year of Jamaican Independence.
 - Are preparing for the big 50 year celebration of Jamaican Independence Day event in 2012.
- With common links to England Jamaicans think of Canada as a sister country. It was pleasing to hear Canadian politician Peter McKay, from Nova Scotia, express gratitude to Canada for allowing airports to get supplies to Haiti after the January 12, 2010 Haitian earthquake.
- Canadians regularly go to Jamaica to train Jamaican police.
- Many Jamaican emigrants to Canada are in the medical profession. Farm workers and commercial mechanics come here on government contracts to work.
- As an immigrant to Canada 41 years ago, Sandra Scott-Phillips attended school here, has worked, played, raised her child, paid taxes and benefited from the best medical treatments available. She has experienced racism, isolation and other difficulties but Surrey puts in efforts to be a welcoming society. Her son has had such opportunities and, thanks to her parents emigrating, she has had the opportunities provided by making Canada her home.

C. NEW BUSINESS**1. Build Surrey - Corporate Report Ro27**

File No. 5920-01

Corporate Report Ro27: "Build Surrey" was approved by Council March 22, 2010. Build Surrey is a capital program for Surrey over the next 6 years: The plan includes new amenities across the City to meet growing demands for infrastructure. (Brought forward from March 23, 2010.)

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture provided the following comments:

- The issue of new amenities within the City of Surrey was raised at the last meeting. Corporate Report Ro27 document can be found on website: www.surrey.ca with a link to the Surrey program, which outlines the capital program for Surrey over the next six years. Items in relation to Parks and Recreation were chosen through a public consultation process during the development of Parks, Recreation and Culture 10 year Strategic Plan. Community needs to address diversity. Things like cricket fields were newly identified as a need. A lot of focus is placed on soccer fields and more fitness facilities and aquatic facilities.
- We create plans based on community needs and can change plans based on needs as cultural diversity changes and demographics change.
- There are more than 50 registered cricket teams in BC with the potential for plenty of international events happening for tourism. Staff are trying to build to meet the higher level competitions and community needs.
- In the Newton area, a second turf field is to be developed for field hockey. The Tamanawis field is to be twinned and the ultimate goal is to host high level teams. The community needs will be the first to be dealt with.
- Cricket is one of the most popular sports in the world and the City have developed cricket pitches in Sullivan Heights fields. The additional field in Newton will certainly help and the City will work with the local cricket community groups to fund raise for amenities towards this park.

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- It is in the plans for Guildford Centre to be expanded over the next six years. A swim pool is to be added. Pools are very expensive to build and operate. Staff look at heat transfer applications and electrical heating, LED lighting, do audits of energy consumptions, etc. in efforts to minimize costs.
- A new turf field is to be added in Guildford and one in Newton.
- There are no firm plans yet regarding the future of the old City Hall. The property is very valuable and leasing options of this property are being look at.
- In the City's efforts to ensure inclusiveness for everyone, multicultural celebrations will be included into our civic facilities and incorporated into facility developments rather than building separate multi-cultural centre. A future new performing arts centre is planned for City Centre.

D. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Welcoming and Inclusive Committee Update**

File No. 4710-01

Kelsey Swanson introduced David Sadler, Child & Youth Engagement Coordinator who is the Project Lead working with the City on developing a *kids* program.

David Sadler provided the following comments of the goals, purposes and outcomes:

- The *Kids* project has just started and the goal is to explore and gather information through and with mid-years aged kids (grades 4-7). A youth volunteer team is responsible for developing this program of curriculum and activities. The children (immigrant youth, Canadian born youth and aboriginal youth) were recruited through the City's networks and cultural agencies in Surrey.
- The *youth* theme is a great leadership opportunity.
- Staff are working with a group of youth volunteers doing all sorts of team building, cultural things and belonging in Surrey. The idea is that youth doing activities will find pieces that they like and modify them for the younger audience. The best training for the youth is to get them involved in the activities.
- We don't know what the youth team will come up with but are doing our best to give them all the tools they need. We are excited to see what happens.

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- The aboriginal youngsters are being encouraged to participate since they are a key part of the project.
- The School District's goal is to increase the graduation numbers of aboriginal youth. This is a focus area and by imbedding leadership skills, staying in schools and then working in the community this will assist them in being employable in the city. Sustainability of the program is an important part.
- One outcome is to develop a toolkit, job description, actual information gathering and skill building through skills partnerships with other groups in the City and sharing linkages and resources. Surrey school partnerships with the community schools, the Surrey Foundation, and giving the youth a diverse group to work with is all part of the efforts for youth to see the need there is for building programs. This is an after-school program.
- At this point, staff have gathered the youth and will be working with the community schools and other needs in these same areas; currently there are 12 members. A person of disability still needs to be found and any referrals would be appreciated. It is definitely a big time commitment on the part of the youth.
- Are looking at multiple schools as all pieces need to be imbedded.
- School District Business Development is working hard as a team to employ grants into other areas. Cedar Hills School just received a \$40,000 grant and this program will certainly support that funding.

2. Kids Conference – Diversity Update

File No. 1400-03

Kelsey Swanson/David Sadler provided the following comments:

- The Kids Conference and Diversity has been combined as part of the proposal by Surrey Foundation. It made a lot of sense to partner with the Kids Conference.
- This is the third year for the Kids Conference. Sara Lea from Fleetwood organizes it.
- The Conference is for 6-12 year olds.
- 4-5 different workshops are held on different topics from sports to active living and science workshops to expose the kids to all different opportunities of new things to do.
- The Kids Conference has been very successful in past. The Conference sells out with a massive waitlist.
- Surrey Foundation is working with Planning. Partnering with the Surrey Foundation has allowed for the addition of one day to the conference.
- Theme – *A Cultural Mosaic*.
- A pre-conference for 9-12 year olds will be held on Friday evening, November 19, 2010 at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Centre. Fun activities, food, and encouraging discussions and dialogue.
- The Conference on Saturday, November 20, 2010 will be held at Fleetwood Community Centre.
- Marketing is working on the printed materials --available in September. More information will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

3. Fusion Festival Update

File No. 8200-20

Laurie Cavan and Fusion Sub-Committee Members provided the following comments:

- Dates: July 17-18, 2010
- Planning of the Fusion Festival is going very well.
- 30 cultural groups are confirmed—three more than last year. New groups: Fiji, Guyana, and Nepal.
- This year the festival will include a new element with the expansion of the Kla-how-eya involvement: Kla-how-eya is to host a two day powwow.
- Pavilion size to be increased for the Polish, China, Mexico and India pavilions.
- Are working closely with the Francophone community to get them involved.
- There are to be three stages: World stage, Celebration of Dance stage, and Chevron Cultural stage, plus a smaller 'buskers' stage to feature high quality international and local talents.
- Website: www.surreyfusionfestival.com
- Thanks were provided to all who are involved.
- The Fusion Festival is getting better with each year and we will build on the success of the 2010 Olympic event. We are anticipating a hugely successful year.
- The City is trying to manage events at Holland Park for every second weekend. Community event information should be provided to city staff for posting on the Surrey website.

- The first year of the Fusion Festival was based on the funding from the Cultural Capital of Canada award. Last year's budget was \$200,000. This year's budget is based on last year's complimented with \$100,000 corporate sponsorships from Coast Capital, Chevron and other different sponsors, plus some revenue generated through food sales. Corporate sponsorship offsets the community's cost.

Committee comments:

- Suggestion was made that there be a Canadian pavilion to showcase Canada.
- Suggestion was made that the Scottish community be encouraged to host a pavilion.
- Suggestion was made that there be a 'best pavilion' competition.
- Contact Cathy James, Surrey Tourism regarding posting Fusion Festival flyers and pamphlets at the Tourism Centres.
- The Pakistani community is hosting a Pakistan Independence Day celebration event, August 8, 2010, 10:00 am - 9:00 pm. This event is hoped to be a mini fusion fest. Last year 7,000 attended. The City of Surrey was thanked for granting permits for the Pakistani event to be held on August 8, 2010 in consideration of the restriction of dates due to the upcoming Ramadan observance.

E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

H. NEXT MEETING

The next Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2010 at 9:00 am.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:25 am.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor B. Rasode
Multicultural Advisory Committee