

**Present:**

Councillor Martin  
I. Chatha, Surrey S.D.36  
S. El-Nashar  
T. Ghuman  
C. Hong  
B. King  
J. Kovach  
D. Lawrance  
M. Malik  
K. Polubinski  
M. Pyne  
W. Sandvoss  
S. Scott  
E. Szucs

**Absent:**

Mayor Watts  
R. Asistio  
Dr. B. Gurm  
Corp. J. Hundial  
T. Oleman  
V. Pittakidis  
D. Sandhu  
K. Sanghera  
M. Solorzano  
Councillor Rasode  
Councillor Villeneuve

**Staff Present:**

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources  
L. White, Manager Comm & Leisure Services  
K. Swanson, Manager, Comm Development Services  
D. Nielsen, Acting Manager, Special Events  
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting, May 19, 2009 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by S. Scott

Seconded by K. Polubinski

That the minutes of Multicultural Advisory  
Committee of May 19, 2009, be adopted.

Carried

**B. DELEGATION**

1. **Kathy Sherrell, Program Manager, Immigrant Services Society of BC** was in attendance and provided a presentation regarding the *"At Home in Surrey? The Housing Experiences of Refugees in Surrey, BC"* report.

File No. 4710-01

The delegation provided a copy of the presentation on table and summarized the findings on the Final Report that was created in partnership with Surrey and Immigrant Services Society of BC. Key findings and key needs were identified along with recommendations for the City of Surrey:

- Three key needs:
  - ESL and employment skill training
  - Surrey based settlement counselors to provide assistance
  - Arrange housing for new GARs prior to their arrival.

- Recommendations: City of Surrey
  - Short term:
    - Increased education on refugee issues for municipally funded services
    - Encourage greater community understanding
    - Promote the Community Bridging /Host program
    - Letter of welcome for newcomers
    - Post report on City of Surrey website and disseminate to key stakeholders
  - Long Term:
    - Publish a Newcomers Guide to Surrey
    - Create a multilingual 'Welcome to Surrey' rotating sign on City's website.
    - Lobby the Government of Canada to eliminate the Government Transportation Loans for refugees.
- Selected recommendations for other agencies are included in the report.

Committee discussion followed with the following comments being provided:

- Many immigrants arriving in Canada are well educated but they have limited English language skills.
- Many GARs have spent their lives in refugee camps and may have received no formal education or knowledge of Canada.
- DiverseCity has a Host program. Suggestion was made to connect host families with new families to assist in learning those new every day challenges of living in a new country. To network new immigrants to learn about the churches, school and community programs, libraries, associations and societies available.
- City of Surrey is doing its best on the transportation loans issues to lobby the federal government to avert those loans.

ISS of BC is located in downtown Vancouver. There are interpreters for 42 languages. The delegation thanked the Committee for the opportunity to make the presentation.

The delegation was thanked for the presentation.

## C. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. **Youth-Can! Options BC**

File No. 5120-01

Connie Hong and Richard Ly, Options BC provided a presentation regarding a new program, *Youth-Can!*, for immigrant older youth and young adults. This is a new pilot project. If you know anyone who would benefit, please forward their information to Options BC so they can be reached. Information brochures were provided on table.

Richard Ly, Youth Outreach worker, provided the following comments:

- Richard Ly is working in a joint venture with the Boys and Girls Club, and is responsible for services offered to Surrey. They provide support and training for youth aged 15-25 who are newcomers to Canada. Focus is on

specific needs and goals and assists young people to develop the skills they need to succeed in school, work and life. Training centre locations:

- Surrey Training Centre, #104 – 6840 King George Highway, Surrey.
- Delta Training Centre, 11942 88 Avenue, Delta.
- How to join Youth-Can!? 604-501-6850 [youthcan@options.bc.ca](mailto:youthcan@options.bc.ca)

In response to questions the following information was provided:

- The support that is being provided is to help the youth to succeed at their own goals and is client centered. Youth-Can! are looking for people who are eager to change. They may need help with child care, or being educated in vocational, life skills, and essential services. Helping with one-to-one support as well as classroom training.
- There is a career exploration unit; in order for the youth to reach their goals they have to know what opportunities are available.
- Participants stay with the program for six months. Currently have 22 participants.
- In an effort to get information and awareness of the program out there, a booth has been set up at the Guildford Mall. This is a pre-employment bridging program and is a pilot project.
- City of Surrey needs to develop a Newcomers portal on the website and to form a network with an inventory of resources in Surrey; Best practices also to be available on web.

## D. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

## E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Sustainability Charter Indicators and Targets Task Force

Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager provided a presentation regarding Council's initiative to engage the community in setting metrics for the Sustainability Charter. A volunteer from the MAC will be sought.

The following comments were provided:

- Anna Mathewson started her job in April 2009; reports to Dan Bottrill, Deputy City Manager.
- The Sustainability Charter was endorsed one year ago; is based on a vision set out by the City of Surrey to the year 2058. Charter can be found on website [www.sustainability.surrey.ca](http://www.sustainability.surrey.ca)
- 56 actions in the Charter – 32 parts were pulled into an appendix (on the website) for immediate action – many are underway or completed.
- Mayor held workshops to look at pillars and Charter for development. Kwantlen, Surrey School District, Food Action Coalition, etc.
- Have invited representatives from the Environmental Advisory Committee and Development Advisory (Stephen Dooley), and need to have someone from the Multicultural Advisory Committee to advise on indicators and targets.

- **MAC Volunteers as representatives for the Sustainability task force:**  
**Mr. Tariq Ghuman**  
**Mr. Muhammad Afzal Malik**
- Indicators will be around literacy, housing, and cultural awareness, charter touches on those indicators and a monitoring program once targets are agreed to.
- Criteria and indicators – will be building on the data already out there, looking at what the City and other organizations are already collecting.
- First meeting to be held September 29, 2009.
- [amathewson@surrey.ca](mailto:amathewson@surrey.ca)

Mary Martin thanked the delegation for the presentation.

## 2. **Fusion Fest Review**

File No. 8200-20

Dan Nielsen, Acting Special Events Manager for the City of Surrey provided an overview of the 2009 Fusion Festival held July 18 and 19 in Holland Park:

- 27 pavilions participating (21 last year).
- 55 artists (35 new artists this year on 5 stages).
- Free community event and a great success.
- 600 exit interviews were conducted and feedback was very strong. Food and entertainment were rated the highest.
- 2008 – Received the Cultural Capital of Canada award. This year's event did not have that funding. Was funded by Council and registration fees and food revenues. Drew the same number of people (60,000) over the 2 days versus the 3 days last year. Many people came from Vancouver this year.
- Sponsors Coast Capital stated that the festival was “*very professional and that this is the bar that they have now set and want future events to be working at this level!*”
- Pavilions overall were very happy with the events. Comments received:
  - Are looking at ways to keep costs down.
  - Numbers of pavilions may be restricted in future.
- More plumbing and electrical hookups are limited in future.
- Only 42% of the 2008 budget was available to run the 2009 event.
- Recycling program from 2008 was improved upon considerably and are already researching for 2010.
- KidsZone was a big hit.
- Future year's comments - add a contest portion for best decorated, best food item, etc.
- John McClaughlin from the Province newspaper attended the event. The following day the Province gave the Fusion Festival an “A+”.
- Had a Fusion Fest wrap up meeting and received very positive feedback.
- Feedback comments from the Multicultural Advisory Committee members:
  - It was fantastic and huge job and staff did a big job.
  - Staff were *right on* with any wants and needs.
  - It was great to work with Dan Nielsen. Thank you to the City and organizers. We, the community, need this festival and appreciate it.

- Thank you!

Dan Nielson thanked everyone for their support and noted that the 2010 Olympic Celebration Site will be happening at Holland Park. Some of the cultural energy and diversity in Surrey is what makes the city unique. We want to highlight Surrey's talent and diversity at our 2010 Celebration Site February 12-28, 2010.

Councillor Martin thanked Dan Nielson for all the months of planning and hard work and thanked all the members of the MAC for the work done, for the festival, the events and the decorating.

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEM**

**H. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 17, 2009 at 9:00 am at Pondside.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:47 pm.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Acting Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin  
Multicultural Advisory Committee