

**Present:**

Councillor Martin  
Councillor Starchuk  
T. Ghuman  
C. Hong  
T. Oleman  
S. Sabharwal  
C. Iweh  
J. Kovach  
J. Laitar  
M. Malik  
B. King  
S. El-Nashar  
K. Polubinski

**Absent:**

D. Ganan  
L. Larsen  
G. Grewal  
M. Pyne  
Dr. B. Gurm  
D. Preston  
E. Szücs

**Guest:**

S. Dooley, Executive Director, SFU  
N. Chima, Project Director, SFU  
R. Basi, Multicultural Librarian, Surrey Libraries

**Staff Present:**

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources  
R. Takhar, RCMP Crime Reduction & Community  
Services Manager  
R. Affleck, Healthy Communities  
C. Tallarico, Human Resources  
C. Craig, Legislative Services

**Youth Representatives:**

S. Al-Samarrai

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting.

Moved by S. El-Nashar

Seconded by K. Polubinski

That the Diversity Advisory Committee adopt the

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

- R. Basi, Multicultural Librarian, Surrey Libraries, Diversity in Surrey Libraries**  
File No.: N/A

In attendance before the Committee to provide a brief presentation and overview of the multicultural services and programs at Surrey Libraries. The following comments were made:

- The library looks for ways to actively engage members and newcomers to Surrey (including people who have been settled for a while) so they are more than just passive consumers of the library's services.
- The Library Champions Project is about immigrants engaging with other immigrants to encourage them to explore the resources and programs available to newcomers at public libraries. This includes being part of a three (3)-month community outreach project - drawing on language skills, cultural knowledge and understanding of the immigrant experience - Champions connect with newcomers to share their passion for public libraries and raise awareness of the wealth of resources that libraries offer.
- Through this program, newcomers gain a sense of belonging to their new community, and through this, develop a sense of loyalty to the city. Overall the

program helps new immigrants to integrate and settle into Surrey in a much more successful way.

- Many that come to Surrey do not have friends and/or family, leaving them isolated and alone. This program addresses the isolation factor in a practical way.
- The use of social media is a large component of the Library Champions Project. The responses have far reaching impact and it has been very encouraging to see.

The Committee commented as follows:

- The Committee agreed that the library as a central hub, is very important in community life.
- Discussion regarding work with refugees ensued and it was noted that any individual who has a Permanent Residency (PR) card may be involved in this program.
- Receiving feedback from the Champions is important in order to know how successful the program is for those who are taking part in it. Regular check-in sessions occur to receive this feedback that helps the program move forward.
- In response to a question from the Committee, it was noted by the delegation that approximately 100 people are involved in the program.

Councillor Martin thanked the delegation for her presentation and the excellent work that Surrey Libraries is doing with regard to diversity.

2. **S. Dooley, Executive Director, and N. Chima, Project Director, Simon Fraser University (SFU)**

File No.: 0510-01

In attendance before the Committee to provide an overview of SFU's Strategic Engagements and SFU's Indian Strategy & South Asian Diaspora Community Engagement Initiatives. The following was noted:

- The partnership between the City of Surrey and SFU in Surrey has been very strong.
- SFU's vision is to be the leading engaged university defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research, and far-reaching community engagement; a university that is truly integrated into the community.
- Currently there are approximately 8,000 students enrolled in 30 undergraduate and graduate programs (3,300 full-time equivalent), 2,500 registrations in continuing education courses and \$30M in research and donations.
- SFU Surrey's global impact is diverse and far-reaching.
- SFU Surrey – TD Community Engagement Centre (SFU CEC) – connects SFU with the growing and ethnically diverse South Fraser community through programming, events, activities and student volunteerism. The Flagship Friends of Simon Tutoring program empowers SFU students by providing tutoring, homework help and English support to 60 students in grades 5-9 from new immigrant families.
- Several SFU students and alumni were among those recognized with the Surrey Board of Trade Top 25 Under 25 Awards. They bring ethnically diverse

backgrounds and perspectives and many are recognized for the volunteer work they do for various agencies.

- Examples of SFU working with diverse communities:
  - My Neighbourhood-My Future – supporting kids in areas with high ratios of refugee children
  - Lens on Life – a program to support refugees using art-based therapy to help them think about their needs (counselling, etc.)
  - Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) – looking at the needs of the refugee communities
  - Evolution of Communities Forum (April 22, 2015) - how evolution can support diversity within communities (supported by Councillor B. Hayne)
- SFU's India Initiative:
  - SFU's India Initiative mission statement is to develop and support academic and research programming, student recruitment and retention activities, business and government partnerships and community engagement initiatives as it relates to India and the needs and interest of the local South Asian diaspora.
  - Partnerships with India and the local South Asian diaspora are institutional priorities. SFU's India Initiative is led by SFU's President and SFU's India Advisory Council (IAC).
  - SFU has and continues to support opportunities to promote Indian languages, literature, arts and culture, diaspora history and lifestyle, etc.
    - SFU's Diwali Gala
    - Darpan's Extra-ordinary Achievement Awards
    - Indian Summer Festival
    - Komogata Maru digitization project, and the WW1 South Asian exhibit and community lectures
    - Research initiatives to study cardio-vascular health issues with the South Asian diaspora and public health programs
    - Punjabi language for-credit program
    - Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (launched in Surrey, April 2014)
- SFU is thinking strategically about whom they partner with and their capacity to partner with multiple organizations.
  - Joint promotion and sponsorships of events (e.g. VIBC, Fusion Festival)
  - Engagement community partners (e.g. OPTIONS, PICS, DIVERSEcity, etc.)
  - Improving opportunities for community dialogues, the sharing of expertise and promotion of success stories
  - Research Pitch Forum
  - Suggestions from the Diversity Advisory Committee
- SFU Surrey's Global Community Open House will be held on March, 4, 2015 from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Committee commented as follows:

- Discussion ensued with regard to the possibility of the "for-credit program" being extended to people of other countries (Pakistan, Bhutan, etc.). The delegation noted that it is their hope to move the program into a fully South Asian strategy that would incorporate many more of these countries.
- In response to a question, the delegation noted that SFU is doing extensive research in the areas of interactive arts, technology and disciplinary engineering. There is a huge faculty of education component at the SFU Surrey campus (community-based research).
- There is a great challenge among refugee youths to go to university. A lot of students think it is impossible and end up forfeiting their dreams of going to university and learning. A suggestion was made to see SFU engage and go into high schools in order to ease fears of transitioning for refugee students.
- It is important for this Committee to understand SFU's goal in all of this. The delegation noted that the goal is to develop the depth and breadth of programming by engaging a number of partners on the academic side.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the criteria necessary to partner with SFU. It was noted that authentic partnership is about two organizations getting to know each other and establishing a relationship in order to see if it is a good fit. This is about a community process. The delegation noted that SFU will be building an Aboriginal gathering space.
- There are 96 languages spoken in the City of Surrey. Councillor Martin noted that these are the leaders sitting around the table that can provide SFU with lots of helpful contacts and useful information.

3. **R. Affleck, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, City of Surrey**  
File No.: 8030-01

In attendance before the Committee to provide a presentation on settlement services in recreation centres. The following comments were made:

- The implementation of settlement services in recreation centres is a partnership program (in partnership with OPTIONS, DIVERSEcity, SUCCESS and PICS).
- The purpose of this program is to build a strong and active community, one in which residents are engaged and hold a sense of belonging to their shared community. This initiative responded to research that identified an increased need for newcomers to access settlement services, as well as place Settlement Services staff in City Recreation Centres to enhance service access for mutual clients of both Settlement Services and Recreation Centres.
- Goals of the Program:
  - To assist newcomers to Surrey to gain an understanding of life in Canada, including social expectations and norms.
  - To provide newcomers to Surrey with opportunities to engage and participate in public services and community resources.

- To support newcomers to Surrey in making connections to social networks in the community so that they become socially and culturally engaged in the community.
- To assist newcomers to Surrey to gain the ability to independently navigate various services.
- History of the Program:
  - First Phase was implemented in April 2012 (North Surrey, Fleetwood, and Guildford)
  - Second Phase was implemented in June 2012 (South Surrey, Cloverdale and Newton)
- Settlement Services include: quick information and referral, orientation, settlement counselling, assisted access to services, life skills and education workshops, guided pathway support, and community connections.
- The role of the settlement workers at the recreation centres include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Providing Settlement Services to clients/patrons
  - Creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere
  - Supporting recreation centre staff with new immigrant patrons
  - Supporting volunteers
  - Building and enhancing relationships with recreation centre staff
  - Group orientation sessions or workshops
  - Facility tours for groups of clients
- The role of the volunteer ambassador includes, but is not limited to:
  - Providing a welcoming introduction to patrons of the facility; as well as introducing them to the various programs and services offered by the facility
  - Assisting settlement works with clients
  - Providing tours of the facility
  - Assisting staff with translation
- Currently the program is being run at five (5) different City of Surrey Recreation Centres. Languages groups served at each individual location varies and include:
  1. Fleetwood Recreation Centre (South Asian, Tagalog, Chinese)
  2. Newton Recreation Centre (South Asian, Somalian)
  3. Guildford Recreation Centre (Arabic, Korean, Spanish)
  4. South Surrey Recreation Centre (Chinese, Korean)
  5. Cloverdale Recreation Centre (South Asian)
- This program has had great impact by increasing access of settlement services for newcomers to Surrey (available in the evenings, available at locations outside of the settlement agency). Newcomer clients are connecting to City of Surrey programs and services. The Program also provides South Surrey newcomers with settlement

services in their community. Settlement staff become increasingly comfortable and familiar with City of Surrey programs and services.

- Statistics of Program impact in 2014 were shown. A grand total of 2,200 participants were served out of five (5) recreation centres including quick services. It was noted that this does not include walk-ins who request information without an appointment.

In February 2015, the City will be launching the volunteer portion of the program. The Committee noted that the work of volunteers in moving this program forward is very crucial. Because Surrey is large and diverse (language groups, ethnicities, etc.) the use of volunteers will greatly increase the capacity of a program like this. It was noted that the majority of South Asian services were offered in Punjabi and it was suggested that they offer services in other South Asian dialects such as Urdu.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

## D. NEW BUSINESS

## E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

## F. CORRESPONDENCE

### 1. Proposed 2015 Meeting Dates

File No. 0540-20 DAC

The memo from the City Clerk, regarding proposed 2015 Meeting Dates, was reviewed.

It was

Moved by M. Malik

Seconded T. Oleman

That the Diversity Advisory Committee receive  
and adopt the Proposed 2015 Meeting Dates.

Carried

## G. INFORMATION ITEM

### 1. Verbal Updates / Information Items

- Fusion Festival will be held on July 18-19, 2015.
- Staff are always open to hear from the Diversity Advisory Committee on any agenda items the Committee would like discussed at the meetings. It was noted for Committee members to forward items they would like on DAC agendas to the Administrative Assistant.
- Peace, War and Islam (Dare to be Informed) event on Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at KPU Surrey campus. The event is a joint project supported by the BC Muslim Association, RCMP and Jinny Sims (Member of Parliament).

There are two (2) other similar events on January 25, 2015 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Surrey Centre Library) and on February 21, 2015 from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. (Vancouver Public Library). An information flyer will be circulated to the Committee with additional information.

- Semiahmoo United Church is hosting an event called "Meet Your Muslim Neighbour" - a dialogue for people to come and share, connect and break down the barrier concerning Muslims. An information flyer will be circulated to the Committee with additional information.
- On January 21, 2015 in Clover Point, Victoria, BC, 21-year old Polish-Canadian, Jakub Muda began an 8,000 km run across Canada. More information to be circulated to the Committee.
- RCMP Neighbourhood Engagement Series is a set of meetings designed for residents of Surrey to talk to the RCMP and ask questions about the things that are happening in Surrey's neighbourhoods/communities. Full school addresses and registration information is available at [www.surreyrcmp.ca](http://www.surreyrcmp.ca). Each session begins at 6:30 p.m. and will last approximately 90 minutes. Any questions can be directed to [rosy.takhar@rcmp.grc.ca](mailto:rosy.takhar@rcmp.grc.ca). Upcoming dates/locations are as follows:
  - Thursday, February 5, 2015 at Katzie Elementary, Cloverdale
  - Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Morgan Elementary, South Surrey
  - Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at Forsyth Road Elementary, City Centre
  - Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at Coast Meridian Elementary, Fleetwood

#### H. OTHER BUSINESS

#### I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting to be held on **Tuesday, March 24, 2015** in City Hall, **2E Community Room B.**

#### J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Malik

Seconded by K. Polubinski

That the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting

do now adjourn.

Carried

The Diversity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin  
Diversity Advisory Committee