

Present:

Chair – Councillor Martin
CoChair – Councillor Starchuk
S. Altokhais
A. David
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
B. King
J. Kovach
M. Malik
T. Oleman
M. Pyne
S. Sarbharwal
K. Thiara
J. Thind

Absent:

C. Iweh
Dr. B. Gurm
D. Preston
K. Polubinski
M. Fallon
P. Aylward
L. Larsen , School Trustee Liaison

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
R. Takhar, RCMP Crime Reduction &
Community Services Manager
D. Gill-Badesha, Middle Childhood Manager
E. Desautels, Community Services Coordinator
L. White, Manager, Community &
Recreation Services
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting of September 8, 2015 to be adopted.

It was

Moved by A. David

Seconded by M. Malik

That the minutes of the Diversity Advisory

Committee, held September 8, 2015, be adopted as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. **Ava Vanderstarren, Founder, Director, CEO and Fazineh Keita, Founder, Director, President, Innocence Lost Foundation**

File: 5080-01

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to provide a presentation on the Innocence Lost Foundation.

The following comments were made:

- Innocence Lost Foundation is a not for profit organization with a mission to bring rehabilitation and healing through skills training for child soldiers.
- There are as many as 300,000 children who are under the age of 18 that are used in conflicts around the world. The children are kidnapped, forced to fight, and are used in the frontlines even as suicide bombers.

- Fazineh Keita was born in Sierra Leone, South Africa during the country's Civil War. He shared a story of how he grew up, was kidnapped and trained to put together an AK47. Fazineh escaped from child soldiering by using a school uniform and recruited himself into the local army. From there he released a controversial music album which led him to be pursued by the local government. He sought refuge in Canada where he met Ava.
- Ava Vanderstarren was Miss British Columbia in 2013/2014 with the platform of the rehabilitation of child soldiers. Ava and Fazineh met one another while attending Vancouver Film School and started the Foundation shortly after.
- Innocence Lost Foundation's first pilot project is to build a 150,000 ft² community centre in Sierra Leone, West Africa. The community centre will provide access to food and water, art therapy, career counselling, skills training classes and education to create jobs.
- Innocence Lost Foundation runs on a volunteer basis where their goal is not only to fund and build the project but to involve the community. The Foundation also offers inspirational presentations to student audiences, chronicling Fazineh's life and experiences in Sierra Leone. The foundation obtains funding through fundraising concerts, a jewelry and clothing line, talent shows, and any other opportunities they can achieve.
- The Foundation is currently looking to build awareness of their project in Sierra Leone by connecting with local organizations, visiting local schools, and pursuing support avenues to advance their cause in BC.

2. **Deljit Bains, South Asian Health Institute Leader, Fraser Health Authority**
File: 0460-30

In attendance as a delegation before the Committee to introduce the South Asian Health Institute, give an overview of the program and describe what the Institute envisions for the future in Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The Fraser Health Authority serves a population of 1.6 million residents, of which 15% are South Asian. Research shows that South Asian people are four times more likely to develop heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, and diabetes which contribute to a burden on the health care system.
- The South Asian Health Institute (SAHI) was established in 2013 with the main priority of improving the health of the South Asian population and encouraging members to engage in healthier decisions.
- The Sehat Wellness Ambassador Program for South Asians (Sehat means health in several languages) consists of prevention activities such as flu clinics, mammograms, vaccinations, cancer screening, and blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

- The Sehat program's main goals and objectives are:
 - Affordable clinic prevention activities;
 - Health promotion and education (such as visiting temples and providing health care education information);
 - Delivery of health services at a community level;
 - Wellness coaching and one to one coaching; and
 - Linking people to culturally appropriate health and prevention services in the community.

- The main goal of SAHI is to improve health outcomes for the South Asian population and reduce health care costs by most importantly keeping the population out of the hospital and helping sustain a healthy quality of care at home by giving people the tools and resources to do so.

- More information can be found at fraserhealth.ca under South Asian Health.

3. **Colleen Kerr, Crime Reduction Strategy Manager, Rakhi Project**
File: 5120-01

This item has been deferred to the next Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **Connector Program, Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)**
Olga Shcherbyna, Surrey LIP Coordinator
File: 5080-01

The following comments were made:

- The Connector Program is a partnership between the City of Surrey and Immigrant Employment Council of BC that connects new immigrants seeking employment with local professionals with the aims of increasing the career network of the immigrants to provide enhanced job opportunities.

- The Program selects immigrants (the Connectee) with a service professional (the Connector) based on their industry and/or professional background. They meet together to discuss industry backgrounds, skills and expertise and the Connector refers the Connectee to a minimum of three people in their network.

- The program has seen success in its initial year, and will be offered again in 2016.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed 2016 Meeting Dates

File No.: 0540-20 V (DAC)

The Committee was requested to pass a motion adopting the 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented.

It was

Moved by J. Thind

Seconded by M. Malik

That the Diversity Advisory Committee

adopt the 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEM

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2016 Diversity Calendar

File: 0540-01

The 2016 Diversity Calendar was distributed to members and staff.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on January 26, 2016 in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by T. Oleman

Seconded by B. King

That the Diversity Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

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

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity Advisory Committee