

Present:

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
Councillor Martin, Vice-Chair
B. Gurm
M. Fallon
M. Pyne
M. Shrestha
S. El-Nashar
S. Ewing
T. Ghuman

Absent:

P. Aylward
L. Hwang
C. Iweh
L. Kosuri
M. Malik
T. Oleman
K. Polubinski

Staff Present:

B. Collis, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator
C. Kerr, Stakeholder Engagement Manager
C. Tallarico, Communications Manager
L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

Non-Voting Representatives:

G. Tymoschuk

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. (a) Minutes of March 13, 2018**

It was Moved by M. Pyne
Seconded by B. Gurm
That the minutes of the Diversity Advisory
Committee meeting held March 13, 2018, be adopted.
Carried

(b) The notes of the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting, held May 15, 2018 were received as information.

It was Moved by M. Pyne
Seconded by B. Gurm
That the notes of the Diversity Advisory
Committee meeting held May 15, 2018, be received.
Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Building Solidarity Between Indigenous and Refugee Communities in Surrey**

Dacious Richardson, Surrey Refugee Youth Team, Mumtaz Sultan, Surrey Refugee Youth Team, Representative from the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) Youth Cultural Group, Jeska Slater, Indigenous Youth Coordinator, FRAFCA and Jennifer Basu, Project Consultant, Surrey Local Immigration Partnership

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the intercultural youth dialogue. The following information was reported:

- In 2018, the Surrey Refugee Youth Team received a grant to work with the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre (FRAFCA) and organized the Indigenous and Refugee Youth and Intercultural Dialogue Event. Together, the youth planned various activities that were held at the Kwantlen First Nations Centre. Following Kwantlen traditions and protocols, a blanket ceremony was held.
- A dialogue regarding women's empowerment was facilitated. The statistics regarding Indigenous women in Canada were discussed, with many attendees unaware of the issues facing Indigenous women. The event was powerful and created a space filled with empathy.
- Attendees participated in a mapping activity, identifying where they were born, lived and have travelled. During the lunch break, participants answered questions based on the mapping activity and discussed how everyone has similarities despite having different backgrounds.
- Through the Kairos blanket activity, participants learned a hidden history of Canada's colonization and also discovered the challenges refugees face today with displacement and injustice.
- Despite the unpleasant emotions drawn up from many of the activities, they provided an opportunity to share personal experiences and traumas and lead to a better understanding of each other.
- The hosts wore blankets around their hearts all day, acknowledging the knowledge and presence of ancestors there to support in achieving the good work being done throughout the day.

The delegation expressed appreciation to the hosts, the youth planning teams and all the individuals involved in the planning of the event and the generous organizations that provided funding.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- Approximately 38 youth attended the event with a total of 50 people present, including Kwantlen First Nations and Surrey Local Immigration Partnership representatives.
- The Intercultural Dialogue Event was planned as a singular event, however the organizers have submitted a proposal to the Vancouver Foundation for additional funding to host another event.
- An evaluation of the pilot event was not undertaken, however an informal evaluation was completed and a UBC Masters' student utilized the event as a case study.
- The biggest challenge of the event was recruiting youth to participate and get involved; additional dialogue could help with getting to know one another.

The Committee commended the delegation for planning and participating in the event and suggested that a more formal evaluation be completed if the event is organized in the future.

Parks, Recreation and Culture staff advised that they will contact the delegation regarding potential additional funding opportunities.

2. **Public Safety Strategy Update**

Colleen Kerr, Stakeholder Engagement Manager

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the first year of the Public Safety Strategy and the Mayor's Action Plan on Gang Violence Prevention, which included the Mayor's Task Force on Gang Violence Prevention (MTFGVP). The following information was highlighted:

- The Public Safety Strategy is continually evolving and is comprehensive to the issues regarding public safety. A key focus of the Strategy is to remain responsive. The document will be continually updated in response to changing concerns and issues.
- The MTFGVP was announced in August 2016 and staff assembled key stakeholders to begin meeting in October 2017. Stakeholders included people representing social service agencies, school district, policing, all levels of government, business, youth (including former gang members) and City departments.
- The goal of the MTFGVP was to review the current situation in Surrey and the region, research best practices, identify gaps, challenges and issues and prepare a report outlining actionable recommendations for combating gang violence.
- The MTFGVP met a total of six times and discussed available programming, research on risk factors and best practices, gang profiles and conducted a "Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)" analysis. In the last two meetings, the MTFGVP reviewed drafts and approved the final report.
- The report is supported by a literature review, gap analysis, 18 interviews and support from an internal analysis team. The report was publically released in July 2018.
- The report's major findings indicated:
 - No community is immune to gang violence. The majority of gang activity in BC occurred in the Lower Mainland and can be considered relational in terms of population.
 - Over 140 programs were reviewed.
 - Risk factors in Surrey are unique compared to many other regions.
 - Surrey has a mixture of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- Gang members are profit-driven, not usually motivated by poverty or economic needs and may exhibit criminal and anti-social behaviors at young ages.
- The average age of gang members is 23, with the first criminal offense at 16 and age of first school suspension at 13.
- Indicators of potential future gang or illegal activity can be identified as early as four or six years old.
- In Surrey, individuals may join a gang due to a lack of attachment to community or family, cultural identity issues, perceived glamour or status, as well as exposure to trauma and or substance use.
- The Task Force also reviewed promising programs in other regions, such as early intervention models, multi-agency Case Management Programs, multi-systemic therapy, health-based approaches and gang intervention and exiting programs.
- Gaps identified during the research process include engaging community in solutions, supporting school attendance, enhancing or supporting parenting, strengthening cultural identity, providing integrated case management and integrated targeted enforcement.
- The report outlines six recommended actions and a full copy of the report is available online at: <https://www.surrey.ca/city-government/25179.aspx>.
- Following the release of the report, the Public Safety office has been working to develop the Surrey Centre for Community Safety to advance the MTFGVP recommendations. In addition, the City will follow a targeted neighbourhood approach to address three specific communities that are the most vulnerable.

G. Tymoschuck left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- Some of the prevention programs are targeted and specialized while others are more general.
- Addressing mental health issues is included in the full comprehensive report.
- Youth, teachers and school district representatives were included in the interview process for the report. In-depth interviews were completed with teachers and front-line staff.
- The report recommends involving parents in prevention steps when their child is identified as vulnerable to gang activity.
- The report identified the need to target kids who are not in school.

Staff advised that vulnerable neighbourhoods have been identified through a mapping process (example information specific to the Early Development Index (EDI), etc.) which demonstrates the areas of most need. Parks, Recreation and Culture works closely with the School District when implementing programming and identifying vulnerable children.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following information:

- There may be stigma associated with children attending programs designated as gang violence prevention programs. It would also be beneficial if the programs were open to all kids, instead of individually selected kids.
- There could be youth counsellors available at local recreation centres.
- It could be useful to create a chart demonstrating the costs associated with providing gang violence prevention programming to determine the most effective way to implement resources.
- Programs could incorporate social workers and health professionals to provide additional layers of prevention.
- Kids should be empowered and taught the resources available to address issues such as mental health concerns.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Location of Indigenous Canoe

In response to the request for information regarding the Indigenous canoe that was carved at the Surrey Arts Centre, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, reported the following:

- The canoe was carved by Mike Dangeli (Nisga'a, Tlingit, Tsimshian), Lyle Campbell (Haida) and Daniel Levasseur (Gitksan) in 2007 in the parking lot of the Surrey Arts Centre as a project of the Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Center of Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society, Surrey Art Gallery, Surrey Crime Prevention Society and Katzie First Nation. The theme for the canoe was 'pulling together'.
- In 2008/2009 the canoe went on tour as a teaching opportunity to Surrey schools, organized by the Surrey School Board Aboriginal Education Department, Surrey School Board Fine Arts Department and consultants from the Katzie, Semiahmoo and Kwantlen bands. The canoe was then housed at Klahoweya (now the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)).
- In 2013 a large crack through the canoe was discovered. Joanne Mills, Executive Director, FRAFCA, looked to find another carver to repair the crack and to find an indoor site for the canoe. A permanent indoor location couldn't be secured and the City did not have a facility large enough to house the canoe, raising concern from the community.
- Extensive consideration was given by the Board of FRAFCA, with their elders, offering the canoe to other First Nations for a permanent home. In 2015, after many attempts to preserve, the decision was made to put the canoe to rest.
- The Qayqaut Nation performed the ceremony to put the canoe's spirit to rest. Once the ceremony was complete the canoe was then donated to Habitat for Humanity.

- The canoe went on its journey, had the proper protocol to decommission and put to rest. In addition, there was an artist's rendering which is recorded in part of the Surrey Archives, so the story still lives on.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

Councillor Starchuk noted that Councillor Martin will not be seeking re-election and, on behalf of the Committee, expressed appreciation to Councillor Martin for her accomplishments throughout her 13 years of service to the City of Surrey, and her desire and dedication to build a Surrey that was inclusive and connected.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, acknowledged the great work Councillor Martin has done for Surrey, including a wonderful legacy with the Surrey Fusion Festival, beginning in 2007 and growing to more than 50 pavilions this year, showcasing and celebrating the Surrey's diversity and community spirit; named the "Best Festival" at the Regional Canadian Event Industry Awards in 2017.

Councillor Martin thanked the Committee for their support, noting the many accomplishments and successes throughout the years that are a testament to the work and dedication of every member of the Committee.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by S. El-Nashar

Seconded by M. Shrestha

That the Diversity Advisory Committee

Carried

The Diversity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Starchuk, Chairperson
Diversity Advisory Committee

Please note that these minutes have not been adopted as this Committee has been disbanded.