

Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee - Minutes

Pondside
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012
Time: 9:00 am
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chair – Councillor Martin
Seniors Liaison, Councillor Steele
L. Larsen, School Trustee Liaison
S. Chaudhry
S. El-Nashar
T. Ghuman
C. Hong
C. Iweh
J. Kovach
M. Malik
T. Oleman
M. Pyne
K. Polubinski
S. Sabharwal
K. Fisher

Absent:

Councillor Rasode, Police Liaison
R. Asistio
Dr. B. Gurm
B. King
M. Solorzano
E. Szücs

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Webb, GM, Human Resources
D. Gill-Badesha, Manager, Middle Childhood, Kensington Prairie Community Centre
L. Bowie, Healthy Communities Manager
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

Guests:

Frido Profoehr, Intercultural (ESL) Ministry
Aminul Islam, Mother Language Festival
Rafiqbhai Islam, International Mother Language Lovers of the World

ANNOUNCEMENT:

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of Committee member Sandra Scott-Phillips. Sandra joined the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (previously the Multicultural Advisory Committee) in 2007.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. It was Moved by L. Larsen
Seconded by M. Pyne
That the minutes of the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee of January 17, 2012, be adopted.
Carried

 2. It was Moved by L. Larsen
Seconded by K. Polubinski
That the notes of the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee meeting of May 17, 2012, be received.
Carried
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B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Frido Profoehr, Intercultural (ESL) Ministry** is a volunteer with Cedar Grove Baptist Church. The Church offers outreach programs to those who come to Surrey from other countries. Many of the newcomers may have skills, but do not have Canadian work experience.

The YMCA created a new program for newcomers that is now offered by the Church, to emphasize their current skills and to provide new skills. 69 people are attending the program that began in September.

The Intercultural Ministry offers Life Groups, ESL, Alpha and other programs. An Intercultural Café, located at 10330 – 144 Street, was started. The Café meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. Approximately 20 people came to the first café. People come to share experiences and practice English. There is no cost for the café.

In terms of discussion topics, Thanksgiving celebrations will be discussed in October 2012 and in November there will be a panel discussion for parents on parenting teenagers in Canada, the generation gap and the challenges in dealing with teens.

Child minding services are available for evening classes. There are 250 children in the Church's daycare and the daycare is booked a year in advance.

Committee comments:

A Committee member commented that while the volunteer services offered by the Intercultural Ministry and other church groups are very valuable, the City of Surrey, the Federal and Provincial governments and not-for-profit sector also offer valuable services to new Canadians. To support the alignment of services, Mr. Profoehr was requested to mention the services provided by the government agencies when doing his presentation, to refer clients to Options, and to find out what programs are available in the community. For example, Options provides mentorship and Citizenship classes for free.

The Chair noted that the good work done by Mr. Profoehr and his Church, and the work that Options does, is much appreciated.

2. **Mr. Aminul Islam, The Mother Language Lovers of the World**

The United Nations has proclaimed February 21st to be International Mother Language Day.

A Mother Language Festival is being proposed for that week in February in Surrey to celebrate and recognize the diversity of mother languages. This celebration would create a legacy for all mother language speakers and create a social link between cultures and endangered languages. The theme for the 2013 festival is "multilingualism for education".

6,700 distinct languages are spoken and 115 sign languages are used around the world. At least 3,000 mother languages are endangered--one language disappears on the average of every two weeks. The languages of the world are now vanishing faster than ever in recorded history and we may lose 50% of the world's spoken languages in 125 years.

It was noted that half of the current languages have never been written or recorded; 80% have no orthography. Many endangered languages have rich oral cultures with stories, songs, and histories passed down through the generations. Most fluent aboriginal speakers are aged 60 or older and their languages will be lost forever when the last speaker dies. Five language hot spots include: Northern Australia, central South America, northwest Pacific Plateau, eastern Siberia, and Oklahoma-southwest.

Mr. Islam noted that he will participate in the City's grant application for this event, and expressed interest in seeking community partnerships in this regard.

Staff comments:

The GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture clarified that the main focus of the delegation is Mother Language Day and to have that festival in Surrey. Last year, the festival was held at the Arts Council. Ms. Cavan encouraged Mr. Islam to submit the grant application to determine if it meets the eligibility criteria (i.e. the event is open to the whole community and the organizer has non-profit status).

The Chair recommended that the Mother Language Lovers of the World Board of Directors work with Metro Vancouver since the First Nations people are also committed to preserve their languages.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. The Objective of the March 27, 2012 **Workshop Summary & 2012 Work Plan** was to determine the objectives for this Committee for the upcoming year. It was recommended that the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee:
 - a. Approve the Committee name be changed to Diversity Advisory Committee (Diversity);
 - b. Adopt the Revised Terms of Reference; and
 - c. Request staff to prepare and submit a report in that regard to Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by S. El-Nashar
Seconded by K. Polubinski
That the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory

Committee recommend that Council:

- a. Approve the Committee name be changed to **Diversity Advisory Committee** (Diversity); and
- b. Request staff to prepare and submit a report regarding revising the Terms of Reference and outlining the Committee's 2012-2013 Work Plan (as outlined in the May 17, 2012 meeting notes).

Carried

2. 2012 Fusion Festival – July 21-22, 2012

A slide show was provided showing the Fusion Festival activities. The GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture thanked everyone involved with the Organizing Committee and with the pavilions. The majority of the work was done by members of the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee that are on the Fusion Festival Committee and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Special Events staff team. The Festival would not be possible without the tremendous volunteer contributions from the community.

This year was the Fusion Festival's 5th anniversary. A couple of themes have emerged: the cultural parade through the site, and the Opening Celebrations on Saturday, July 21, 2012.

Over 100,000 people attended the Fusion Festival this year. In the first year of the Festival (2008), there were 27 pavilions, this year there were 39 pavilions and the City of Surrey also hosted the BC Summer Games. *Sports* was the underlying theme of the Festival.

Four stages were operated concurrently over the two days—with over 100 entertainers, reflecting different cultures. This level of growth is reflective of how far the Fusion Festival has come in the past 5 years. Additional comments were provided as follows:

- There was a First Nations Village.
- The Métis Nova Community Group was there for the first time.
- Food is a tremendous component of the festival – the provision of safe food production at all the pavilions adds a level of complexity to the event.
- The Flavours of Surrey (showing traditions of food grown in Surrey) was expanded into the Fusion Festival for a second year.
- The Cooking Stage was very popular, featuring Chef Andrew (part of the Super Chefs Program and his aboriginal foods specialties); and Vij's chef, plus other celebrity chefs. Councillor Martin presented on the Cooking Stage with a Windset Farms representative.
- The Kids World was very popular and may be expanded if space permits in coming years. The Closing Ceremonies for the BC Summer Games was held on the Sunday of Fusion Festival. The pavilions had very good food sales that day as many athletes and their families enjoyed the Festival.

- Surrey's *heritage re-enactment* was showcased in a high traffic area of Holland Park.
- There were 25 major sponsors to get the message out, including Global TV, the Province, the Now newspaper, and various radio stations. Some of the festival headliners drew a tremendous crowd.
- The Festival continues to grow and find new ways to engage the community.
- Volunteers - Surrey has done a great job of recruiting, training and getting the volunteers out and involved.

Suggestions and recommendations for next year were noted as follows:

- Ken Fisher, President of the Métis Nova Community stated this is the first year for the Métis Nova Community Group and they appreciated being involved. Had a great turnout, and had Métis awareness of the other aboriginal people for those two days. Métis are from all over Canada, are of mixed ancestry of native and European heritage.
- Tom Oleman, Kekinow Native Housing Society extended a promise that Kla-how-eya will hold a powwow next year and get the community more involved, in the spirit of inclusion. Kekinow House will be asked for support next year.
- One of the issues raised is that not every community is well defined and cannot afford to participate. Contributing 20% of tickets sales back to the City is too high a cost. It was suggested to look at each group and possibly have groups share a booth to display culture, but not necessarily have food.
- Ensure plenty of advance advertising of the Fusion Festival event.
- Host a *meet and greet event* prior to the Festival to communicate with representatives from each pavilion and to raise awareness of who the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee are and/or include communication about the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee in the communication with the Pavilions.

Committee comments:

- This year there were many new immigrants representing a range of cultures at the Festival. This is a big change from past years.
- This is a wonderful opportunity to show how to celebrate and embrace other languages/cultures.

Councillor Martin thanked everyone who sat on this Committee to make the Fusion Festival such a successful festival. Surrey won *best festival across Canada* the year before for its Fusion Festival.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2012 Doors Open Event – June 23, 2012 Corporate Report R203

The GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture provided a three minute video showing the Doors Open happenings. It is hoped that the Doors Open Event will grow for next year.

Councillor Martin thanked staff and volunteers for all their hard work to make this a fun and successful event.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

1. Settlement Services in Recreation Centres

Memo, dated September 4, 2012 from the GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture regarding settlement services in recreation centres.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee continues to plan and hold **Focus on Seniors Forums which continue to grow. The Forums are being held on the average of one per month:**

- September 15, 2012 - held in Punjabi, had over 200 people attend
- October 13, 2012 – in Urdu, at Chuck Bailey north gym
- October 27, 2012 - in English, at Newton Recreation Centre gym
- November 17, 2012 - in Mandarin, at Guildford Fraser Heights Recreation Centre
 - Are currently seeking Mandarin speaking people to volunteer to help as 'meeters and greeters'
- December 1, 2012 – in English, at South Surrey Recreation Centre
- date TBD - in Korean

Councillor Martin thanked everyone involved for their work in helping to make the Forums such a great success.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2012.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Pyne
Seconded by S. El-Nashar
That the Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee