

Diversity Advisory Committee – Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Martin
School Trustee Liaison: L. Larsen
S. Chaudhry
S. El-Nashar
K. Fisher
T. Ghuman
Dr. B. Gurm
B. King
M. Malik
T. Oleman
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Sabharwal
E. Szücs
J. Laitar

Absent:

C. Hong
C. Iweh
J. Kovach
Councillor Rasode – Community
Safety Liaison
Councillor Steele – SAAC Liaison

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation &
Culture
D. Gill-Badesha, Manager, Middle
Childhood, Kensington Prairie
Community Centre
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services
R. Affleck, Community Services
Coordinator
C. Tallarico, Change Management
Specialist, HR
R. Takhar, Crime Reduction &
Community Services Manager

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by L. Larsen
Seconded by M. Pyne
That the notes of the Diversity Advisory
Committee meeting of November 20, 2012, be received.
Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Métis Presentation –**

Ken Fisher is the Nova Métis Heritage Association President. There are 2,000 members. 60,000 Métis reside in BC.

1982 - Canadian Constitution Act – signed by Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Queen Elizabeth. Section 35-2 states there are three nations of Aboriginal peoples in Canada: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

The Métis National Council establishes the standards for Métis ancestry. The training office in North Surrey provides supports and backing.

The purpose of the Idle No More Movement was discussed. The movement is to raise awareness of the federal government obligations to aboriginal peoples.

Staff noted that although it is good to have an understanding of Idle No More Movement, the role of this Committee is that of an advisory role to Surrey Council regarding City of Surrey programs and services and local community issues related to diversity.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Sports & Me Pilot Program**, in partnership with First Steps and Community & Recreation Services – Laurie Cavan

The program is intended to support refugee children and families. The Sports & Me Pilot Program initiative includes parents who want to participate in the sport program with their children. 56 children were involved last year.

The Sports & Me Pilot Program is a multi-sport introduction program that teaches sports skills and sports etiquette to refugee children ages 6-12. This is a wraparound program as issues the kids are facing come to the attention of staff and First Step staff take steps to connect the children and their parents with the appropriate community resources.

- 2. English Conversation Program/Outreach** – Robyn Affleck, Diversity Coordinator, PRC

The English Conversation Program is a volunteer led program for newcomers to practice speaking English. Most are adult learners. Programs run in fall, winter, and spring: 8 sessions, 1.5 hours each. There are 201 registrants so far for 2013; 14 classes across Surrey; 16 volunteer facilitators and 40 rotating facilitators work throughout the year. There are classes for women, women and men, and advanced classes (*new*). The program is free.

A manual is used as a guideline, with discussion topics such as recreation, sports, and living in Canada. Different learning styles are taken into consideration. Volunteers take participants on field trips to grocery stores, libraries, show them how to take transit, etc. The networking is invaluable and participants improve their spoken English skills significantly in the 8 sessions.

- 3. Newcomers Tour** – Robyn Affleck

Tours for Newcomers is run in partnership with Options Immigrant Services. The program was created in response to research done with settlement staff and clients in settlement agencies. The 1-2 day tours are customized to the needs of the groups. They meet at a local recreation centre and receive a power point presentation regarding recreation centres, programs, Leisure Access Program (LAP), Harvest Box, etc. They also do a walking tour of the centre, participate in an activity, and sign up for resources and library card.

The purpose of Day 2 of the tour is to give assistance to registering for the programs seen the day before. The participants travel to a different facility, the Arts Centre, Stewart Farm, Surrey Museum, RCMP, City Hall, etc. They go ice skating and have lunch. 122 people have participated since October 2012.

The program receives feedback from participants and is continuously evaluated.

Committee comments:

- Once people go there, they are aware. Don't discount the value of them being aware of the value of the community amenities even if they do not immediately access them.
- The City was congratulated on a wonderful program. Many people are benefiting and happy with these programs.

4. Round Table Updates

Mary Ann Pyne -

- Jamaican Canadian Cultural Gospel Concert - Sunday, February 17, 2013, 6:00 pm, Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby. To celebrate February as Black History Month. <http://www.jccabc.net/>
- Cultural Association of BC held a diabetes workshop the end of 2012.
- Granada celebrates their Independence Day on February 2.
- February 9, 2013 - Valentines dinner /dance, at Fleetwood. In aid of Surrey Food Bank - \$20 plus a donation of money or food.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

- January 29, 2013 – Chinese New Year Celebrations (Lunar Year: February 10, 2013)
- February 9, 2013 – Annual *Keys for Humanities* – at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, hosted by women from the Muslim Community
- January 19, 2013 – March 24, 2013 - Surrey Art Galley Exhibit Ceramics Display
- February 1, 2013 – *Red Chamber* - Concert presented by Peninsula Productions – 8:00 pm, at First United Church, 15385 Semiahmoo Ave., White Rock. Traditional and contemporary music in western, bluegrass and jazz fusion
- Upcoming cultural diversity events flyer provided on table
- Cultures events on website: <http://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/6138.aspx>

H. OTHER BUSINESS**Updates:****1. Welcoming Communities Project - Robyn Affleck**

Request for proposal from the BC Government – Surrey was granted \$667,000 to create a committee to build a plan for initiatives regarding integration of new immigrants. Term for the project is from January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. The committee has been created and is comprised of representatives from various non-profit and service organizations in Surrey; the City of Surrey is the lead organization.

Further updates will be provided at the March meeting.

2. Doors Open 2013 – Diversity Advisory Committee Volunteers - Jessica Danyk

An open house one day event for the City of Surrey will be held in June 2013. 40 venues will be selected that are focused in Newton, Bear Creek, and Whalley. There will be hop on, hop off buses to support the event. The marketing section will work with the Planning Committee to get advertising out early.

The Doors Open 2013 Planning Committee will meet once per month. The Social Planning Advisory Committee is also involved. Diversity Advisory Committee volunteers: MaryAnn Pyne, Emese Szucs, Sarj Sarbharwal.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Diversity Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2013.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Pyne

Seconded by L. Larsen

That the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting

do now adjourn.

Carried

The Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:45 am.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity Advisory Committee