



**MINUTES AND INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES AND INFORMAL MEETING
NOTES**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

In the absence of quorum, an informal meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7:04 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Chair
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair
Shannon Alves, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)
Simin Ahmadian, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative
Bitra Rezaei, Citizen Representative
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:21 p.m.)

GUESTS: Thábata da Costa, Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership
Sarah Manteuffel, Urban Systems/ Urban Matters

REGRETS: Silvia Luigia Camolese, Citizen Representative
Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative
Arun Ghag, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Michelle Frilund, Acting Senior Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Kate Brown, Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist
Victoria Elahi, Planner 1
Amalee Truong, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair noted the absence of quorum, and the Committee agreed to proceed with an informal meeting, starting with Item 2 on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS**2. Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership**

Thábata da Costa, Program Manager, Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership, provided a presentation entitled "TCLIP Strategic Priorities" that covered the following topics:

- An overview of the organization's strategic priorities
- An overview of the mentorship pilot program developed in partnership with the City

Shannon Alves arrived to the meeting at this time – 7:08 p.m.

Simin Ahmadian arrived to the meeting at this time – 7:11 p.m. and quorum was achieved.

The Chair recommended that the Committee revisit Item 1 on the Agenda.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024**

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS – CONTINUED**2. Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership – Continued**

Thábata da Costa, Program Manager, Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership, continued to provide a presentation entitled "TCLIP Strategic Priorities" that covered the following topics:

- An overview of projects aimed to disseminate community information and services

Lucie Wee arrived to the meeting at this time – 7:21 p.m.

- An overview of projects focused on the social and civic inclusion of newcomers
- An overview of noticed trends in the settlement sector

Discussion ensued relative to the importance of incorporating additional education on supporting domestic violence victims into the mentorship program.

3. Accessibility and Inclusion Plan Engagement Session

The Acting Senior Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist provided a presentation entitled "Accessibility and Inclusion Plan Engagement" that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the Accessible BC Act
- Overview of the City's Accessibility and Inclusion Plan
- Barriers and discussion to achieving Accessibility and Inclusion

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Desire to see a decrease in medical barriers regarding seeking employment
- Interest expressed in the City enhancing visual signage and using simpler language for clarity and accessibility
- Desire for the City to create a single webpage listing all events taking place within the city
- Desire for City parks and trails to be made physically accessible
- Desire for long term solutions to be implemented regarding accessibility in the City
- Desire for creation and distribution of an accessibility map of the City

4. 2024 Year-End Review/ Identify Potential Items for Draft 2025 Work Plan

Planner 1 provided introductory comments relative to the desire to gather the Committee's insight on 2025 Work Plan Items.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Desire for City staff to provide operational and administrative support to the Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee
- Desire to increase presentations by underrepresented groups to the committee

5. Committee Members' Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues

The Chair invited Committee members to share details regarding upcoming events or emerging issues in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- Desire to have the Felice Choir present in the City

The Chair and Vice-Chair thanked the Committee for their volunteerism in the community.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING - 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Robert Mazzarolo, Chair

Amalee Truong, Committee Clerk