

CULTURE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 12, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Culture Services Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair
Councillor Craig Hodge, Vice Chair
Kim Hockey, Citizen Representative
Megan Leslie, Citizen Representative
Janice Mazon, Citizen Representative
Philip Mulder, Citizen Representative
Lindy Sisson, Artistic Community Representative
Ryan Jamieson, Coquitlam Public Library Board
Philip Hartwick, Evergreen Cultural Centre Society
Jackie Weinkam, Festival Planners Network
Joan McCauley, Place des Arts

REGRETS: Nina Buddhdev, Citizen Representative
Reg Quiring, Citizen Representative
Sandra Hochstein, Coquitlam Heritage Society
Anthea Goffe, Coquitlam Public Library Board

GUEST: Hilary Letwin, Evergreen Cultural Centre Society

STAFF: Graham Stuart, Director Corporate Planning
Jonathan Helmus, Director Utilities
Karen Basi, Cultural Services Manager
Mark Thompson, Project Manager – Corporate Planning
Wondy Chan, Cultural and Community Events Supervisor
Natasha Lock, Planner 3
Ryan Klemencic, Planner – Analyst
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, June 8, 2023

The Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, June 8, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Renewal: Opportunity for Input

The Director Corporate Planning and Project Manager – Corporate Planning provided a presentation and engagement activity entitled “2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Renewal” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City’s Strategic Plan (hereon “the Plan”)
- Key objectives, timeline and engagement opportunities for the Plan’s renewal process
- Synergy between the Plan and other City corporate plans
- The Plan’s core components and components that will be updated in 2024 and 2028
- Key themes identified by the annual Business Plan and online Ipsos Community Satisfaction Survey
- How the Committee’s feedback will be reported to Council and used to develop actionable items

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- In regards to the *Safe and Complete Neighbourhoods* theme, lack of graffiti on buildings and graffiti cleaning services, increased lighting at night for safety, creating more walkable playgrounds, parks and communities, reducing park “deserts”, murals and engagement with youth, opportunities for collective public spaces, more community social gathering space for youth, investment in libraries and other cultural spaces and utilizing accent lighting to revitalize public spaces
- In regards to the *Local Economy and Local Jobs* theme, planning for a possible Coquitlam entertainment district, encouraging job creation in arts and entertainment industry, investment in film industry, promoting inclusive employment opportunities, promoting small business and local restaurants, leveraging Coquitlam’s natural/historical amenities to attract tourists, promoting accessible/alternative modes of transportation, incentivizing mixed-use commercial and residential development, promoting part-time work opportunities for seniors and incentivizing more co-op opportunities for university students within Coquitlam
- In regards to the *Healthy Community and Active Citizens* theme, expanding community access to recreation centres, increasing outdoor pool space, free outdoor exercise equipment, expanding outdoor trails and park space, promoting free and accessible recreation programs, expanding Grade 5 free recreation pass to older youth, expanding free drop-in for swimming and skating to children under age 12, providing affordable recreation, more lighting in parks especially at night, expanding recreation activities for youth, continuing

investment in cultural services to promote positive mental health, offering more recreational classes such as drop-in pickleball and using public space for informal recreation

- In regards to the *Sustainable Services, Environment and Infrastructure* theme, better access to public recycling in parks, education regarding wildlife in urban settings, locking and securing garbage bins, investment in cultural services and programming, increasing removal of invasive plant species and planting more trees
- In regards to the *Excellence in City Governance* theme, providing public engagement opportunities, transparency in decision-making process, clarity regarding City responses to public concerns, expansion of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives and anti-racism initiatives
- Whether data exists regarding the economic impact of the City's Lights at Lafarge Lake display
- DineOut Vancouver Festival and the possibility of Coquitlam running a comparable campaign
- The possibility of the City partnering with e-scooter operators to cross-promote City events
- The new YMCA facility on North Road
- The desire to keep the Blue Mountain Wading Pool
- Whether staffing challenges at the City's recreational facilities have improved
- Inadequate lighting at Mackin Park
- Whether the City has an invasive species reporting system

3. Review Framework for Developer Initiated Art on Private Property

The Planner 3 provided a presentation entitled "Review Framework for Developer Initiated Public Art on Private Property" that covered the following topics:

- Background and overview of the Review Framework for Developer Initiated Public Art on Private Property Project (hereon "the Project")
- The importance and benefits of public art
- Toronto Metropolitan University Study
- City Centre and Burquitlam Area Plans
- The City's Public Art Policy & Project Plan (2010)
- Conceptual sketch of "Gateways", public art pieces that are defining entry points for buildings and communities
- The necessity of establishing formal criteria and procedures for public art in community spaces
- Possible amendments to Coquitlam's Citywide Official Community Plan and Public Art Policy
- The potential to install public art on private properties with public access such as a plaza

- Timing and expectations for public art application process
- Public engagement opportunities and collaboration with local non-profit organizations

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire for clarity regarding the public art application process
- Large high-density mixed-use sites being the most common place for public art installations
- Developers proactively installing public art on their properties
- Controversy regarding some public art and the removal of statues that depict controversial historical figures
- Whether the City has a formal policy to screen public art
- Whether the City's Cultural Services staff will be involved in creating the Project's formal criteria and procedures for public art
- Whether the Committee can provide feedback for the Project

4. Street Enhancement Mural Project Update

The Director Utilities provided a presentation entitled "CSAC – Mural Update" that covered the following topics:

- Overview and update of the Streetscape Enhancement Mural Project (hereon "the Project")
- Collaboration with Vancouver Mural Festival (VMF) for the Project
- The Project's lessons learned, including site selection, artist selection, artist fees, artist support, sponsorship and business engagement
- Lack of corporate sponsors for the Project in 2023
- Possibility of hosting meetings between artists and business owners during mural design process
- Future mural sites across Coquitlam
- Collaboration with kʷikʷəłəm on a future a mural for Town Centre Park Community Centre

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the Project's murals display artist names and the potential for plaques to display this information
- The lack of information provided to broader community regarding the Project and artist selection process
- The Project's artist roster and whether artists will be called upon in future years
- The Project's budget
- Potential collaboration with the Austin Heights Business Improvement Association (AHBIA) for future murals
- The possibility of installing murals at Coquitlam recreation centres such as

Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex (PSLC)

- Murals revitalizing public spaces and increasing public safety by acting as a deterrent for graffiti

5. Summer Events Update

The Cultural and Community Events Supervisor provided a presentation entitled “Culture Services Advisory Committee – October 12, 2023” that covered the following topics:

- Canada Day event at Town Centre Park
- Summer Concert Series
- Kaleidoscope Arts Festival
- Culture Days held in September 2023
- The Neighbourhood Block Party Program
- Lights at Lafarge Lake Kick-Off event on November 24, 2023

Discussion ensued relative to the support for festivals and events in Coquitlam.

6. Facilities Updates

The Cultural Services Manager provided a verbal update of City facilities that covered the following topics:

- Glen Park Open House to be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023
- Town Centre Park Community Centre reopening timeline
- Maillardville Community Centre and outdoor community plaza construction timeline
- Spani Pool renovation timeline and overview of new features
- Northeast Community Centre (NECC) design timeline

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The Coquitlam Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Guide (hereon “the Guide”) and other information dissemination mediums such as Notify Me email notifications
- Information dissemination alternatives to inform residents that the Tri-City News is no longer publishing a physical newspaper
- Committee desire for public notice boards or kiosks
- The City developing communication plans for events and festivals
- The use of street signs, community centres, cultural partners and bus stops to promote City events
- The possibility of integrating cultural and community groups in the Guide
- The importance of adequate funding and support for festivals and events
- The possibility of enhancements for Glen Park, Blue Mountain Park and Mackin

Park to support future events and festivals

The Chair directed the Committee Clerk to note the possibility of Communications evaluating at upcoming meetings how information about cultural and community groups is disseminated in light of Tri-City News no longer printing physical newspapers and the possibility of integrating cultural and community groups in the Guide.

7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Cultural Issues

The Committee members were invited to share details regarding upcoming events or emerging issues in the community. The following information was shared:

- Coquitlam Public Library's postponement of next Drag Queen Story Time until January 2024
- Coquitlam Public Library opening new amenities such as a discovery tech-lab at City Centre Branch, mobile library, Kanopy database collaboration and a Lego display
- "The Judges Daughter" play to be held from October 24 to 29, 2023 at Firehall Arts Centre
- The Parade of Lost Souls to be held on October 28, 2023 at Britannia Branch of Vancouver Public Library
- Evergreen Cultural Centre recently launching its 2023-2024 season including a new artists exhibit and new window displays
- Place des Arts annual fundraising online auction to be held from October 21 to November 4, 2023
- The Festival Coquitlam Society planning for next year's Como Lake Family Fishing Derby and Teddy Bear Picnic Grande Parade
- University students struggling financially due to inflation and rising cost of living
- Concerns regarding the tree mural at Maillardville Community Centre

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, November 9, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Steve Kim, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk