

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 16, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair
Simin Ahmadian
Pamela Garcia
Honore Gbedze
Ann Johannes
Bita Rezaei
Amandeep Sangha
Iris Sun
Michelle Taylor
Zahra Zaker

REGRETS: Carolina Echeverri
Njeri Watkins

STAFF: Demian Rueter, Community Social Development Manager
Torill Gillespie, Social Planner
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions

The Chair welcomed the new and returning members and the Committee participated in a roundtable of introductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS**3. Committee Orientation**

The Committee Clerk provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities, referencing an on-screen presentation and utilizing slides titled as follows:

- 2022 Advisory Committee Orientation Session
- 2022 Advisory and Statutory Committees
- Coquitlam City Council
- City's Planning Processes and You
- Committee Mandate
- Role of the Committee
- Role of the Committee Cont'd
- Role of the Chair and Vice Chair
- Role of the Staff Lead(s)
- Role of the Committee Clerk
- Term of Appointment and Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest
- COVID-19 Measures
- Connect With Us
- Questions?

There were no questions. The Chair thanked the Committee Clerk for the orientation.

4. Review and Approval of the Draft 2022 MAC Work Plan

The Community Social Development Manager spoke to the draft 2022 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) Work Plan as attached to the agenda package and shared on-screen.

The Chair and Vice Chair noted the robust number of items included within the Work Plan.

The Chair asked the Committee members whether they had any questions or comments relative to the Work Plan, and there were none.

The Chair requested that the Cultural Understanding Project item be added to the Committee's next agenda for discussion and as a potential opportunity for the Committee to form a Sub-committee. He requested that the staff lead circulate background information regarding the past project to the Committee in advance of the next meeting.

The Committee approved the draft 2022 MAC Work Plan and a copy is attached, to and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

**COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2022 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Work Plan.

5. Coquitlam Public Library Presentation

The Community Development Liaison for the Coquitlam Public Library (CPL) provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Presentation to the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee
- Background
- Locations
- Outreach Vehicles
- Children's Programs
- Adult Programs
- Cultural Program for Nowruz
- Conversations About Race in BC
- Community Conversation – Based upon the conversations we've had, to date, what issues do you see in the community?
- Community Conversation – What can we as a library to address these issues?
- Community Conversation – What can we do as a community to address these issues?
- Coquitlam Library Plans for 2022
- Questions?
- Thank You

During her presentation, the Community Development Liaison invited the members to contact her directly if they were interested in volunteering to serve on the CPL's Community Advisory Group or volunteering to support the Library's expanding senior home delivery service.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Community Development Liaison confirmed that the Committee members were welcome to share a copy of her presentation with their contacts and networks. The Committee Clerk undertook to email a copy to the Committee members following the meeting.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the presentation
- A preview of the CPL's website and details of some of its regular programming, including Chess Club for children and coding classes
- The time commitment proposed for the senior home delivery service program volunteers

- Details of the CPL series titled “Past and Present: A Conversations About Race in BC”, including whether the conversations were available in a public archive
- The promotional avenues utilized by Coquitlam Public Library, including its website, events guide, social media channels, and newspaper advertisements
- The excellence of the ‘Community Conversation’ held on January 12, 2022 and led by Pam Garcia (Committee member), as a culmination of the “Conversations About Race in BC” series addressing race and social equity

The Chair thanked the Community Development Liaison for her presentation.

6. Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

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

- Details of a series of nine community dialogue events titled “Emergence, Adaptation and Resilience” that would be held by NewToBC, Library Link for Newcomers to BC, and that further information would be shared with the Committee by email.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, March 9, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk