

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 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 Bonita Zarrillo, Vice Chair
Simin Ahmadian
Adrienne Ahn
Carolina Echeverri
Leticia Pamela (Pam) Garcia
Honore Gbedze
Ann Johannes
Andrea Kwasnicki
Jessica Liu
Iris Sun
Zahra Zaker

REGRETS: Priti Shah

STAFF: Cristina Rucci, 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 attendees to the meeting and the members participated in a roundtable of introductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Review and Approve Draft 2021 Work Plan

The Chair welcomed the Social Planner to the meeting, and she introduced herself and spoke

to the work undertaken to prepare a draft 2021 Work Plan for the Committee's consideration. She reviewed the items planned for the 2021 year.

The Chair opened the floor for input or comments and there were none.

The Committee approved the 2021 Work Plan, and a copy is attached hereto.

The Committee made the following recommendation:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 2021 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Work Plan.

4. Disaggregated Demographic Data Collection Sub-committee Update (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited a Sub-committee member to provide an update to the Committee.

A Sub-committee member shared a verbal update, noting the following:

- The definition of disaggregated data
- That a working report was underway by the Sub-committee for future presentation to the Committee
- The Sub-committee's hope that its report would prompt the Committee to consider making a recommendation to Council regarding the need for the collection of disaggregated demographic data in Coquitlam
- The potential for the collection of such data to highlight race and gender issues, with a goal of identifying gaps and helping to foster equity
- The understanding that fostering equity is at the forefront of the movement for anti-racism that Statistics Canada and many universities are moving towards

The Chair thanked the Sub-committee member for the update, noting that the Committee looked forward to receiving the report during a future meeting. He requested that the Sub-committee liaise with the Committee's staff leads as it delved deeper into its research on the topic.

The Chair invited the Community and Social Development Manager to introduce herself to the Committee and she did.

5. Welcome to Coquitlam Event Format Discussion

The Social Planner noted the previous input provided by the Committee regarding the desirability of postponing the 10th year anniversary (2020) Welcome to Coquitlam event to the spring of 2021, so that the event could be held with in-person attendance, rather than virtually. She further noted that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a 2021 in-person event would likely not be possible. She invited the Committee to provide feedback regarding the idea of further postponing the event to the spring of 2022.

The Chair provided the Committee with some background regarding the origin and purpose of the Welcome to Coquitlam event.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The belief that in-person attendance was a vital component of the event and contributed significantly to its success
- Support for the idea that the event be postponed to 2022
- Clarification regarding whether the event would be postponed to the spring or fall of 2022
- The suggestion that a bulletin or video (with archival event footage) be posted on the City's website to notify residents and visitors that that the event would be postponed

The Committee agreed that the Welcome to Coquitlam event should be postponed to the spring of 2022, so that the event could (hopefully) be held in-person and during good spring weather.

The Committee also expressed support for the suggestion that a notice be posted on the City's website to alert residents and visitors of the event postponement and explaining the reasons for that decision.

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

The Chair invited the Committee to share information updates regarding happenings and emerging issues occurring in their communities. The members provided details regarding the following:

- Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership information and a link to its upcoming events
- IRCC Dataset on Canada's Open Data Portal and a data map regarding immigrant admissions
- An upcoming "Using Data for Change" event being hosted by the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner
- A weekly "Mindfulness" (mental health and counselling) event for students being hosted every week by the Sage Foundation
- City of Coquitlam Meals for Seniors Program
- City of Coquitlam Community Support Recovery Plan Grant Program

At the invitation of the Vice Chair, the members shared information regarding some of the personal challenges and gaps they were noticing in their communities due to the ongoing pandemic, including the need for far better food security for vulnerable populations, mental health assistance for overwhelmed students and young adults, and the lack of supports for women and children experiencing and combating abusive situations at home.

The Chair and Vice Chair thanked the members for sharing and for their continuing volunteerism and leadership in the community.

The Chair and Vice Chair encouraged the members and their organizations to consider applying for assistance through the Community Support Recovery Plan Grant Program, should

they have a need for funding. The Vice Chair noted that the priorities of the program were being regularly reviewed by Council and staff.

At the request of the Chair, the Committee Clerk undertook to circulate the resource links shared during the discussion to the Committee by email.

OTHER BUSINESS

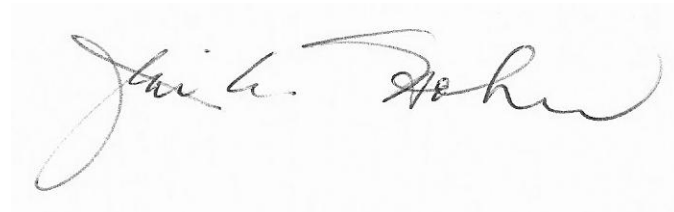
NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, March 17, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk