

CULTURE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 10, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Culture Services Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, June 10, 2021 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 Trish Mandewo, Chair
Councillor Dennis Marsden, Vice Chair
Candrina Bailey, Coquitlam Heritage Society
Julie Eastman
Nora El Najjar
Todd Gniissios, Coquitlam Public Library Board
Philip Hartwick, Evergreen Cultural Centre
Kim Hockey
Elizabeth Hrynew
Joan McCauley, Place des Arts
Janice Mazon
Jackie Weinkam, Festival Planners Network

REGRETS: Mandy Tulloch, Artistic Community Representative

ABSENT: Marie Del Cid-Luque

STAFF: Karen Basi, Cultural Services Manager
Michele Frilund, Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist
Maria Danysh, Acting Cultural and Community Events Supervisor
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, April 8, 2021

The Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Community Engagement Strategy - Presentation

The Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist introduced herself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- City of Coquitlam - Community Engagement Strategy
- Agenda

- What is Community Engagement?
- What Does Engagement Look Like Now?
- What Does Participation Look Like Now?
- What is a Community Engagement Strategy?
- IAP2 Spectrum
- Timeline
- How Can You Get Involved?
- Questions?
- Thank You

The Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist previewed the letstalkcoquitlam.ca portal for the Committee's information.

She invited the Committee to participate in an online engagement activity (a 'jamboard') and the Committee provided input to the following questions:

- Is there something you heard tonight that you liked?
- Is there a question/concern or maybe something you still don't understand from what I shared?
- Is there something you have experienced in an engagement (in Coquitlam or somewhere else) that really worked and you would want to share?
- Is there something that you would want me to know or to research more in order to create the Strategy?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Interest in, and awareness of, the letstalkcoquitlam.ca portal
- Whether the information provided within the portal could be used by the CSAC Sub-Committees
- The availability of the jamboard engagement tool through Google
- Whether the City works with social media influencers to help promote Coquitlam activities
- The belief that social media influencers can be community champions
- The community groups that could be consulted with during the Strategy's public input opportunity
- The belief that hiring local artists could be an effective way to engage the community, help the public understand complex issues, and generate greater public feedback
- Whether the City had worked with Vancouver Mom or considered working with cultural and artistic reporters and Neighbourhood Block Watch organizers
- Best practices in community engagement and staff's desire to ensure that the Strategy design is wholly inclusive and equitable
- The important educational aspect of the Strategy relative to encourage diverse, equitable, and inclusive input and feedback from residents of all cultures
- The "nothing about us, without us" mandate and what sort of outreach that the City had undertaken with Kwikwetlem First Nation (KFN) regarding the Strategy

The Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist spoke to the importance of relationship building and engagement, and the City's desire to ensure that input to the Strategy was sought early on from the KFN, local immigrant services, and other cultural groups. She encouraged the members to share possible engagement contacts and any further

input with her directly.

The Vice Chair spoke to City's past and ongoing efforts to engage with, and reach out to, the KFN, and provided some details about the nature and structure of the KFN and its capacity to engage. He gave some examples of the dialogues held with the KFN relative to the cultural and historically significant sites in the City.

3. Blue Mountain Park Master Plan – Presentation

The Chair advised that the item had been deferred to a future meeting.

4. Summer Events Update – Canada Day / SCS / Kaleidoscope Arts Festival

The Cultural and Community Events Supervisor provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Culture Services Summer Events Update
- Celebrate Coquitlam Celebrates Canada Day
- Thursday, July 1, 2021 / Free Online Event
- Thursday, July 1, 2021 / Drive-through Event
- 2021 Summer Concert Series
- Saturday, July 17
- Sunday, July 18
- Kaleidoscope Arts Festival
- Thank You / Questions?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- That residents could sign up for the free online and drive-through Canada Day events at Coquitlam.ca/canadaday
- That the number of decorated car registration spots was limited to 400

5. Sub-Committees' Updates

The Chair invited the Sub-Committees to provide updates regarding the work they had undertaken since the last meeting.

The Group Leader of Sub-Committee A spoke to a report titled "Culture Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) Subcommittee A - Status Report" and dated June 2021. He noted the following:

- The number of meetings that the group had held since the last Committee meeting in April
- That the group had been tasked with investigating how to "promote youth, cultural diversity and inter-culturalism in programming delivered by the City and its major service-delivery partners"
- That the group had concluded its research into existing programs and assessed them based on a number of criteria
- That the criteria were selected based upon the desired outcomes of inclusivity and

accessibility

- The proposed next steps planned by the group, including to contact cultural partners and survey them for ideas about what opportunities may exist to achieve greater success within aspects of their programming, and conduct site visits of community centres and other public or private facilities over the summer to identify potential display spaces
- The group's intention to document its findings and make a presentation as part of its final report
- The group's desire to collaborate with Sub-Committee B with a view to achieving mutual goals

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the Committee had suggestions regarding how the Sub-Committee could deepen its qualitative research of the youth and diverse groups programming
- That the Sub-Committee hoped to receive suggestions about research sources other than those readily and publicly available
- What local cultural groups that the Sub-Committee hoped to survey and visit

At the suggestion of the Vice Chair, the Cultural Services Manager noted that she could endeavor to provide Sub-Committee A with a listing of the cultural groups that had rented the City's facilities and/or bought its services. She noted that the Sub-Committees, as part of their final reports, could propose that City ask/answer specific questions, contact certain groups for programming information, and/or conduct greater research of particular areas or topics.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The scope of the Sub-Committee's work and appreciation for clarification regarding what kinds of actions the final reports could propose
- The criteria used by the Sub-Committee to assess programming

The Cultural Services Manager suggested, and the Chair agreed, that the Sub-Committees' written reports could be circulated to the Committee so that the members could review the proposals and provide further feedback during the September meeting.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- That the Sub-Committees could contact the Executive Director of the Coquitlam Public Library (CPL) for a complete list of the cultural groups that regularly gather at CPL
- That the programming for the cultural groups that book space at CPL is both open and closed, depending upon the group
- The challenge of attempting to identify all the community groups offering programming and whether to modify the scope of Sub-Committee's task
- The Sub-Committee's understanding was that it was their task to gather, without judgment, information about the programming offered by local cultural groups to build awareness and share information

The Chair requested that if either of the Sub-Committees observed gaps as part of their research, that the gaps be identified (without criticism) within their final reports for the information of the Committee, Council and staff.

The Group Leader of Sub-Committee B spoke to a report titled “Neighbourhood Cultural Advisory Sub-Committee” and dated June 7, 2021. She noted that the group had researched and identified ways to foster engagement in Coquitlam neighbourhoods and proposed a shortlist of ideas for the Committee’s consideration, as follows:

- Festival Workshop Day for Youth Performers and Writers
- Neighbourhood Welcome Baskets
- Visual Art Experience
- Young Neighbourhood Entrepreneur

She outlined the proposed goals and outcomes of the ideas and noted that those supported by the Committee would be included within the Sub-Committee’s final report.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Group Leader spoke to the research undertaken by the Sub-Committee relative to the short-list of ideas. The Cultural Services Manager noted the possible intersection between the Young Neighbourhood Entrepreneur idea and programs within the City’s Economic Development Division.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The possibility that the Neighbourhood Welcome Baskets idea could enhance the local Welcome Wagon program
- The scope of the Sub-Committee and the interpretation/definition of cultural engagement relative to the proposed ideas
- That the Sub-Committee had defined cultural engagement as “community” and “building relationships with one another”
- The Youth Leadership Society of BC and the work that they had been doing in Coquitlam to deliver meals
- Support for the ideas presented
- That arts organizations are open to enhancing the ways that they welcome and invite residents into their facilities
- The Summer Theatre youth troupe at Place des Arts and the limitations that COVID-19 had wrought on performance opportunities
- The belief that youth entrepreneurial programs could definitely intersect with arts and culture

In response to a question from the Chair, the Cultural Services Manager undertook to report back regarding whether the City’s youth survey included a definition of community.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- How newcomers to Coquitlam are identified and welcomed

- The Sub-Committee's suggestion that as one way to welcome residents, a Block Party organizer could deliver Neighbourhood Welcome Baskets to the residents that do not participate in block parties
- That local arts and culture organizations provide programs for newcomers through collaborations with local immigrant services societies
- An anecdote regarding the excellence of an annual, long-standing neighbourhood corn roast (Block Party) and neighbourhood library
- The understanding that newcomers to neighbourhoods are identified to the Welcome Wagon program by realtors
- Whether a way to foster engagement at the neighbourhood level could be to have the City or its cultural community partners make kits available that individuals in communities could request
- The possibility of having Parks and Recreation staff attend Block Parties to provide short cultural introductions to residents
- Information about the Block Party ideas booklet and arts kits produced by the City in response to input received from Block Party organizers
- That the City had partnered with Coquitlam Foundation and Vancouver Foundation to provide grants to fund neighbourhood programs and the desire to highlight the availability of those grants

The Chair spoke to the excellence of the discussion and the ideas presented by both groups, and noted that she looked forward to future updates from the Sub-Committees.

6. Facility Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Cultural Services Manager provided a verbal update regarding the North East Community Centre, the Innovation Centre, and the Library Services and Spaces Study.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Cultural Services Manager noted that the expanded programming that would occur as part of the Innovation Centre renovation had yet to be determined. She noted that cultural partners would be consulted for input and offered to share a link to the report to Council highlighting some of the possibilities, should the Committee wish to review it.

7. CSAC Members' Roundtable / Emerging Cultural Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

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

The following information was shared:

- That Festival Coquitlam would host a 2-day concert on Saturday and Sunday, June 12th and 13th, and a Teddy Bears at Home Virtual Parade on June 26th and 27th, and complete details were available on the Festival Coquitlam Facebook page
- That the Coquitlam Public Library Annual Report was recently released and members

- were encouraged to review it
- The recent press coverage regarding media and intellectual freedom, and that should anyone have questions on the topic they were welcome to contact the Executive Director, Coquitlam Public Library
 - That truth and reconciliation and other First Nations and aboriginal collections were available at CPL
 - That a new covered outdoor space was completed at CPL Poirier Branch and additional programming, Wi-Fi, and seating were available, rain or shine, through October 2021
 - That CPL had purchased a Pop-up Library vehicle and information about its availability for events occurring in Coquitlam
 - To please visit the CPL website for a complete list of all of its programming
 - That in recognition of Historic Spaces Month, Coquitlam Heritage Society (CHS) would offer 6 walks around Maillardville over three days in July and complete details were posted on the CHS website
 - That CHS would be accepting applications in September from high school students aged 15 to 17 for three available internships, and further information would be posted on the CHS website in the coming months.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Vice Chair explained why the City did not have an indigenous lands acknowledgement posted on its website.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, September 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk