

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 19, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 7:02 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
Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative
Bitia Rezaei, Citizen Representative
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Simin Ahmadian, Citizen Representative
Silvia Luigia Camolese, Citizen Representative
Arun Ghag, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Eric Kalnins, Manager Economic Development
Zeralynne Te, Community Social Development Manager
Heidi Hughes, Tourism and Visitor Economy Manager
Julia Power, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Festivals and Events Strategy Update

The Manager Economic Development and the Tourism and Visitor Economy Manager provided a presentation entitled “Multicultural Advisory Committee” that covered the following topics:

- An overview of the Economic Development Strategy including initiatives, future plans, key sectors and themes of multiculturalism
- An overview of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Strategy including community led events, block parties and the summer concert series

Bitia Rezaei arrived to the meeting at this time — 7:17 p.m.

- An overview of the City's Canada Day event including food trucks, performers, programming and activities

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire for more neighborhood block parties and to provide public parking at schools during City events
- Concerns including, hosting small-scale events at large venues and the lack of event parking at Blue Mountain Park

3. Canada Day Update and Volunteer Sign-up

The Community Social Development Manager provided introductory comments relative to the following:

- An overview of Canada Day plans for the MAC booth including, *Where were you born?* and *Why I Love Coquitlam* activities and an educational display of demographics and immigration statistics

Discussion ensued relative to the desire for volunteers from the Committee to assist with the booth on Canada Day.

4. Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee Update

The sub-committee lead provided introductory comments relative to the following:

- The desire to gather information from the public in the form of a questionnaire to better understand which events bring residents together and the preferred communication method for such events
- The desire to receive funding from Council to conduct a public survey related to Cultural Understanding in Coquitlam

Discussion ensued relative to the desire to share information about the project's objectives with Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommended that Council approve \$5,000 for the Cultural Understanding Sub-Committee to create a public questionnaire and to hire a consultant to analyze the results related to the cultural understanding project.

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:

- English language classes have seen an increase in demand, resulting in a growing waitlist
- Caribbean Days Festival at Town Centre Park on July 27 and 28, 2024
- The desire for the City to share bookable facilities and their space capacity online
- Coquitlam Pride Celebration hosted at the Evergreen Cultural Events Centre on July 20, 2024
- A Persian Artist Gathering at Evergreen Cultural Events Centre on July 27, 2024

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, September 25, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Robert Mazzarolo, Chair

Julia Power, Committee Clerk