

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 21, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair
Simin Ahmadian, Citizen Representative
Shannon Alves, Citizen Representative
Silvia Camolese, Citizen Representative
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative
Arun Ghag, Citizen Representative
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative
Bita Rezaei, Citizen Representative (left at 8:53 p.m.)
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative
Ching Hang Ng, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Graham Stuart, Director Corporate Planning
Wendy Rogers, Director Intergovernmental Relations
Zerallyne Te, Community Social Development Manager
Helen Patterson, Indigenous Relations Manager
Mark Thompson, Project Manager Corporate Planning
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. City of Coquitlam Territorial Acknowledgement

The Director Intergovernmental Relations and the Indigenous Relations Manager provided the

Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “Territorial Acknowledgement” and a YouTube video entitled “The Story of kʷikwəłəm” that covered the following topics:

- The purpose and usage of the City of Coquitlam’s territorial acknowledgement
- The process of creating and implementing a territorial acknowledgement
- The territorial acknowledgement’s role in relation to Reconciliation
- First Nations who traditionally lived and occupied the land within and surrounding Coquitlam’s present boundaries
- Map of kʷikwəłəm’s traditional territory
- kʷikwəłəm’s story including its history, culture, relationship with non-Indigenous peoples, and past and present living conditions on its reserve
- Update on reconciliation efforts by the City and relationship-building with kʷikwəłəm

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The meaning of the word “kʷikwəłəm”
- Council priority to work on the evolving relationship with kʷikwəłəm
- Housing and other infrastructure developments on kʷikwəłəm’s reserve
- səmiqʷəʔelə and consultations between the Province and kʷikwəłəm regarding the site’s future
- Service agreements between the City and kʷikwəłəm

3. **2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Renewal: Opportunity for Input**

The Director Corporate Planning and the Project Manager Corporate Planning provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Renewal” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City’s Strategic Plan (hereon “The Plan”)
- Key objectives for the Plan’s renewal process
- Synergy between the Plan and other City corporate plans
- Timeline of the renewal process
- The Plan’s core components and components that will be updated in 2024 and 2028
- Engagement opportunities that include in-person events, online surveys and formal meetings with various committees
- Key themes identified by the annual Business Plan and Ipsos survey
- How the Committee’s feedback will be reported to Council and used to develop actionable items

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Safe and complete neighbourhoods theme, including lighting at night, inclusive neighbourhoods and road safety
- Local economy and local jobs theme, including provision of rental space for commercial activity, opportunities, supports and recertification for newcomers, economic development opportunities for youth, and support for local banks and credit unions
- Healthy community and active citizens theme, including inclusive communication of City activities and programs, affordable programs and services, promotion of community gardens and local produce, and outdoor exercise or community space during winter months
- Sustainable services, environment and infrastructure theme, including affordable and

accessible childcare facilities, maximizing natural light in facilities, installation of electric vehicle stations, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) lens for accessible community facility design and the BC Energy Step Code

- Excellence in City governance theme, including providing opportunities for community engagement and feedback, making information accessible and affordable for residents, accountability of Council and staff and increased representation within the local government
- Welcome to Coquitlam event
- Challenges of information reaching residents who are isolated
- Coquitlam’s Community Engagement Framework
- The desire for more covered outdoor community spaces
- The possibility of a City-run local radio station to broadcast information to residents
- The possibility of the City publishing a monthly newsletter
- The present challenge of housing unaffordability
- The possibility of the City publishing a newcomers guide

4. Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee Update

The Sub-Committee Lead provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “Cultural Understanding Project” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the Project
- Timeline of work performed by previous committees and sub-committees
- Community feedback and dialogue results
- Barriers and challenges of social integration among multicultural communities
- The objective of fostering a more integrated and inclusive community
- Challenges that impacted sub-committee activities in the past
- The possibility of utilizing diverse communication mediums to disseminate the Project’s information to community
- The necessity of City resources and staff support being allocated for the Project
- The necessity of collaboration with diverse community groups for the Project
- Completed and outstanding action items and performance indicators

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Key focus of acceptance and inclusion of diverse communities
- The desire for Committee members to raise awareness of the Project among their networks
- The desire to operationalize the Project’s actions and develop a schedule for providing information to Council
- The importance of bridging gaps and breaking down barriers between diverse communities
- Residents being socially isolated due to lack of cultural integration and impact of language barriers
- The desire to see the City work with School District No. 43 (SD43) to communicate English language learning programs with newcomers
- The desire for multicultural gathering spaces where residents can exchange cultural information and knowledge
- The possibility of sporting events being utilized to bridge cultural gaps

- Possible ideas for social events that the Project could eventually organize and run
- The desire to encourage socialization among seniors to bring them out of isolation
- The City’s Meaningful Meals for Seniors Program
- The purpose of the Sub-Committee’s activities and its mandate for the Project
- The intention to bring a draft plan to the Committee later this year or next year before it is received by Council
- Lack of funding and resources being the most significant challenge for the Project
- The necessity to acquire relevant facts and statistical information before providing a report to Council

5. **Canada Day 2023 – MAC Booth**

The Community Social Development Manager provided introductory comments on the Committee’s booth at Canada Day that covered the following topics:

- Details of the booth’s activities and information that will be circulated at the Canada Day event on July 1, 2023 at Town Centre Park
- Purpose of the booth at Canada Day
- Staff’s desire for Committee members to volunteer at the booth for select times throughout Canada Day

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Possibility of providing a feedback opportunity for the Cultural Understanding Project at the booth
- Concern regarding the phrasing of a guiding question for the “Map of the World” activity at the booth
- Clarification regarding the “Map of the World” activity’s purpose and intention
- Possibility of the Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee returning to the Committee after Canada Day to receive feedback regarding the event
- The present status of the Welcome to Coquitlam event

6. **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.

Bitia Rezaei left the meeting at this time (8:53 p.m.).

The following information was shared:

- Multicultural Connections event at Town Centre Park on July 8, 2023
- Provincial Anti-Racism Data Act (ARDA) and the ongoing public consultation that ends on September 30, 2023
- Tirgan Festival at Town Centre Park on July 15, 2023
- Coquitlam Pride 2023 event at Evergreen Cultural Centre on July 15, 2023
- Caribbean Days Festival at Town Centre Park on July 29 – 30, 2023

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 19, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Brent Asmundson, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk