

**MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, November 15, 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 (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)  
Simin Ahmadian, Citizen Representative  
Shannon Alves, Citizen Representative  
Silvia Luigia Camolese, Citizen Representative  
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative  
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative  
Arun Ghag, Citizen Representative  
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative  
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative  
Bitia Rezaei, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Ryan Voon, Climate and Energy Manager  
Zeralynne Te, Community Social Development Manager  
Laura Beattie, Sustainability Programs Specialist  
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER****ADOPTION OF MINUTES****1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS****2. Climate Action Plan Engagement**

The Climate and Energy Manager and Sustainability Programs Specialist provided a presentation and engagement activity entitled “City of Coquitlam Climate Action Plan” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- Synergy between the City's CAP and Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP)
- Breakdown of Coquitlam's carbon pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission sources and emission reduction targets

Councillor Mazzarolo arrived to the meeting at this time (7:08 p.m.).

Staff's presentation also covered the following topics:

- CAP priority areas, next steps and desire for the Committee's feedback
- CAP engagement methodology and how feedback will be utilized to create actionable items

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Barriers to *how we build* CAP priority, including high costs of retrofitting old buildings, BC Step Code changes and impact on new building costs, lack of public awareness and education regarding GHG emission reduction behaviours, low return on investment and high maintenance costs for low-carbon energy systems, insufficient electrical grid capacity, electric systems being less reliable and more expensive than natural gas, lack of federal funding for climate initiatives and federal emission reduction targets being misaligned with municipal goals
- Motivators for *how we build* CAP priority, including mixed-use developments with commercial and residential space to maximize land use, promoting complete neighbourhoods to cluster community amenities and reduce commuting times, promoting work from home opportunities to reduce automobile emissions, maximizing natural lighting, utilizing energy efficient/LED lightbulbs to save energy, implementing "dark sky zones" to reduce light pollution effects on wildlife and designing green buildings to recirculate water and reduce water waste
- Barriers to *how we steward* CAP priority, including development impacting creek and watershed management, federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) regulations restricting City efforts to manage water drainage and river flow and desire for more lighting at night by residents impacting efforts to reduce light pollution
- Barriers to *how we consume* CAP priority, including restrictions on rooftop and community gardens and lack of education regarding growing home gardens
- Motivators to *how we consume* CAP priority, including promoting local farmers' markets, buying locally and growing small home gardens to reduce plastic and food waste, incentivizing businesses to reduce packaging waste by charging lower recycling fees and encouraging low-carbon transition and reduction of waste through legislation
- The BC Step Code and whether the City has any role in setting its standards
- Creating local job opportunities by incentivizing more office space and attracting satellite office spaces to reduce commuting times
- The desire for residents to not have to commute as far for work
- The City's Carbon Cutters Program, including transition to more energy efficient lightbulbs for street lights
- Support for the City's Inspiration Garden and challenges of finding space in

Coquitlam for community gardens

**3. Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee Update**

This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting to be held in 2024.

**4. 2023 Year-End Review/Identify Potential Items for Draft 2024 Work Plan**

The Community Social Development Manager provided a presentation entitled “City of Coquitlam Multiculturalism Advisory Committee – 2023 Year in Review November 15, 2023” that covered the following topics:

- Review of 2023 Work Plan items and meetings
- 2024 Work Plan drafting process
- Overview of the Committee’s mandate and objectives

Discussion ensued relative to the possibility of inviting kwikwəłəm to a future meeting.

**5. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues**

The Chair invited Committee members to share details regarding upcoming events and emerging issues in the community.

There were no comments from the Committee.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING – TBD (2024)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Brent Asmundson, Chair

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Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk