

CULTURE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 18, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Culture Services Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
Councillor Dennis Marsden, Vice Chair
Todd Gnissios, Coquitlam Public Library Board
Philip Hartwick, Evergreen Cultural Centre
Kim Hockey
Elizabeth Hrynew
Janice Mazon
Jackie Weinkam, Festival Planners Network

REGRETS: Candrina Bailey, Coquitlam Heritage Society
Marie Del Cid-Luque
Julie Eastman
Nora El Najjar
Joan McCauley, Place des Arts

STAFF: Karen Basi, Cultural Services Manager
Terra Dickinson, Cultural and Community Events Supervisor
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that she would be attending remotely due to her participation in a Union of BC Municipalities' event and, as a result, Councillor Marsden would Chair the meeting.

Councillor Marsden assumed the role of Chair. He spoke to the role of the Chair relative to the City's advisory committee process and Councillor Mandewo's election to, and involvement with, the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and the Union of BC Municipalities.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 9, 2021

The Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 9, 2021, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Blue Mountain Park Master Plan Presentation

The Park Planner 2 introduced himself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Blue Mountain Park Master Plan
- Agenda
- Location
- Master Plan Process
- Project Timeline
- Existing Park Amenities
- Three Zones
- The Field
- The Core
- The Grove
- Culture
- Questions and Feedback
- Committee Engagement Opportunities
- Thank You!

The Committee considered the following focus question:

- Are there any Committee priorities, particular and/or emerging practices for staff to consider in the development of the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The suggestion that the legend on the slide titled “Existing Park Amenities” be updated to read “Baseball Field” rather than “Baseball Court”
- The possibility that terminology relative to “Tennis Courts” could be updated to “Racket Courts” in the future
- That there was no change proposed to the location of the tennis courts within the Park, although it was proposed that one court be added in future
- The desire to minimize impacts to The Grove (forest) in the Park
- The observation that the current tennis court location would not be ideal for future pickleball programming due to its proximity to residences (noise impacts)
- That the City would be updating the Pickleball Strategy based on current trends
- That whether the Park could have a formal stage with seating was being considered as part of the Master Plan process
- The desirability of temporary or permanent covered shelters within the Park, where users could take refuge from hot, cold or inclement (rainy) weather
- An expression of appreciation for the excellence of the Park
- Confirmation that pickleball is a sport
- The desire for large, well-lit, outdoor, weather-proof community space(s) where larger extracurricular groups (kids and adults) could meet to learn and explore
- That challenge that local groups encounter when searching for large, covered outdoor gathering spaces in the community, and the belief that there is a shortage of such spaces

- The popularity of the current wading pool and concern that it was being proposed to replace it with a spray park
- The type of enhanced spray deck proposed for installation in the Park and the expectation that it would improve accessibility and inclusivity
- The location of, and improvements to, Spani Pool
- The suggestion that perhaps Spani Pool could take the place of the benefits provided by the current wading pool, i.e. support toddlers' and young children's transition through their learning-to-swim levels
- The understanding that Spani Pool is located approximately 3 kilometers from Blue Mountain Park

The Chair spoke to his understanding that municipalities were transitioning away from wading pools due to maintenance challenges and the legislation applicable to lifeguards. He noted his expectation that as the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan process progressed, there would be further opportunities for residents to provide input to the City regarding the detailed elements of the Plan. He further noted that the City hoped to hear from residents regarding the amenities/features that they would like to see implemented in the Park over the next 20 years.

A Committee member spoke to climate change and her observations regarding the heat domes experienced by residents in the summer of 2021. She noted the popularity of the Park's wading pool during that time, especially its use by new Canadians. She expressed concern that the cost to access Spani Pool could be a barrier for some residents, and asked whether the City could consider cost barriers when it considered the accessibility of the Park's wading pool by residents.

The Chair thanked the Committee member for her input and, as a takeaway, suggested that when City staff reviewed the City's extreme weather response, that access to pools by residents relative to extreme summer temperatures/heat dome effects be considered.

The Chair thanked the Park Planner 2 for his presentation.

3. Staff Update: Northeast Community Centre/Major Recreation and Cultural Facility Road Map

The Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning introduced herself and the Research Assistant and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Northeast Community Centre – Recommended Program and Site Fit Concept
- Agenda
- Chronology
- Location
- Population Growth
- Context
- Engagement Results
- Engagement Survey Results
- Expanded Engagement Results

- Vision
- Guiding Principles
- Site Fit
- Aquatics
- Gymnasiums
- Fitness Centre and Active Studio
- Multi-Purpose Rooms
- Community Kitchen
- Indoor Walking Track
- Library
- Support Spaces
- Covered Outdoor Space
- Proposed Program and Costs
- Potential Civic Facilities – Not Included in Program
- Financials – Operating Budget Impacts
- Major Recreation and Cultural Facilities Road Map
- Next Steps
- Questions?
- Thank You

The Chair spoke to the significance of the project, its budget and engineering, and the other major recreation and cultural facilities projects underway in the City.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Positive expressions of support for the facility
- Appreciation for the facility serving as a community hub
- Whether there had been any consideration relative to an operating model for the facility, i.e. whether community users would be able to access the space and/or how it would be programmed
- Support for the community kitchen idea
- The extensive community engagement that had been undertaken relative to the facility to date

The Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning noted that she would be pleased to meet with the Cultural Services Manager and the Executive Director of the Evergreen Cultural Centre to discuss the facility's operating model. She also noted that staff would be pleased to answer any follow-up questions from the Committee over the coming months.

The Chair thanked the Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning for her presentation.

4. Sub-Committees' Updates / Final Status Report Presentations

The Chair shared an anecdote regarding an excellent presentation recently made to Council by two local Grade 12 students. He invited the Group Leader of Sub-Committee A to present the group's final report.

Sub-Committee A

The Group Leader of Sub-Committee A noted that the Committee had provided feedback to a draft copy of the report during its September 9th meeting and, as a result, the Sub-Committee had met and discussed that feedback.

He spoke to Sub-Committee's final report, as circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting and titled "Culture Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) Subcommittee A Final Report – November 2021". He noted the two topics covered within the final report (two short-term action items taken from the City's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategic Plan), as follows:

- Topic 1: Promoting youth, cultural diversity, and inter-culturalism in programming; and
- Topic 2: Address the lack of visual arts display space.

Regarding Topic 1, he shared the steps taken by the Sub-Committee over the year to research a variety of local organizations and cultural centres, gather information, and summarize its findings. He highlighted the final report's conclusion "that Coquitlam enjoys a robust array in the quantity, type, and timing of activities promoting youth, cultural diversity, and inter-culturalism in programming". He highlighted two gaps included in the report that the Sub-Committee had determined may exist relative to the topic.

Regarding Topic 2, the Group Leader noted the steps taken by the Sub-Committee to conduct its research and gather information from local public and private facilities. He thanked the staff working in those facilities for their helpfulness when conducting tours. He spoke to the Sub-Committee's findings relative to its research to "address the lack of visual arts display space by increasing display space in civic facilities such as community centres and other public or private spaces", noting that Attachment B to the final report detailed the Sub-Committee's suggestions regarding the potential display space opportunities unique to six civic facilities. Relative to private facilities, he spoke to the ways that they could potentially enhance opportunities for in-person, virtual, and digital arts display spaces. He highlighted two gaps included in the report that the Sub-Committee had identified relative to display spaces in public and private facilities.

He concluded his presentation by speaking to the summary section of the final report.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Next steps
- Whether the Committee wished to make any recommendation(s) to move the ideas presented in the final report forward to Council
- The work undertaken by the Sub-Committee to date and the suggestion that the Committee discuss the final report
- Confirmation that the Committee had read the final report
- That the current meeting was the Committee's final meeting of the year

The Chair noted that if the Committee wished Council to take any action relative to the Sub-Committees' final reports, that Committee recommendations would be required. He spoke to what the next steps could be, should a recommendation be put forward to Council, including the expectation that the final report would be referred to staff for review and a report back to Council that would cover issues such as whether the opportunities identified in the final report were consistent with what the City delivers and would fit within the City's strategic plans and, if so, what the proposed timeframes would be and who would act as project leads.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Cultural Services Manager provided an example of how the opportunities and gaps identified within the Sub-Committee's final report could potentially tie-in to the work of Culture Services and other areas, and result in collaboration and partnerships between the City and other cultural organizations.

The Chair suggested that the findings in the Sub-Committee's final report were deserving of the Committee's consideration for a recommendation, and gave some examples of the language that could be used when making a recommendation.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- That, as a cultural partner of the City, Evergreen Cultural Centre looked forward to exploring objectives and having future collaborative discussions with the City
- The language of a proposed recommendation

Councillor Mandewo noted her belief that the proposed recommendation would give staff an opportunity to review the Sub-Committee's report in terms of its alignments or gaps relative to the City's strategic plans, and report back to Council. She further noted her hope that, going forward, the Committee could continue the work undertaken by the Sub-Committee.

The Chair noted the reasons that Council considered it important to refer reports put forward by advisory committees to staff for review.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Consider the opportunities and gaps identified in Sub-Committee A's final report titled "Culture Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) Subcommittee A Final Report – November 2021"; and
2. Direct staff to report back regarding the feasibility of the City implementing actions to address the opportunities and gaps identified in the report.

The Councillors thanked and commended the Group Leader and members of Sub-Committee A for the excellence of their work.

Sub-Committee B

The Group Leader of Sub-Committee B referenced the report dated November 3, 2021 and titled “Neighbourhood Cultural Community Report”, circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting. She noted that the group had been tasked with evaluating how neighbourhood cultural connections could be improved, and the definition of neighbourhood culture as “that shared sense of connection and relationships within neighbourhood communities”. She noted that ideas to address the group’s task and bridge identified gaps had been discussed by the Committee during past meetings.

Each of the Sub-Committee members took turns speaking in detail to the ideas presented for the Committee’s consideration, as follows:

- Art Walk
- Neighbourhood Welcome Baskets
- Young Neighbourhood Artisan Entrepreneurship Program

The Group Leader of Sub-Committee B invited the Committee to provide feedback regarding the three ideas presented and to consider the discussion questions included in the report.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- How the proposed Neighbourhood Welcome Basket Program would differ from (and not mirror) what would typically be undertaken by the City as part of Welcome to Coquitlam
- The idea that the Neighbourhood Welcome Basket Program would focus on smaller, walkable neighbourhoods
- Whether the Sub-Committee could provide examples of the sorts of neighbourhood groups that it had considered reaching out to
- Some details of the Art Walk idea and the potential to expand its scope over time
- The desire that the Art Walk could be a full craft fair type event where participating artists could be observed in the process of doing their art
- The desire for the production of a full program guide that would cover programming in all areas of Coquitlam
- The potential to offer incentives to explore the City’s amenities and recreation centres (i.e. a 1-day free pass) if cost is a barrier for some residents
- Support for the Young Neighbourhood Artisan Entrepreneurship Program (YNAEP) idea, including for young dog walkers to start-up businesses in neighbourhoods
- The belief that the YNAEP could provide much value to young artisans by helping them learn the business ropes, and the belief that such a program could be tailored to suit tradespeople as well
- The understanding that the School District is running some excellent entrepreneurship programs for high school students, and the desire that the City partner with local schools and universities to support young entrepreneurs
- Proposed language for a Committee recommendation
- Whether there was a way to tie the proposed recommendations to items on the City’s Business Plan
- The belief that Council would want to know whether or not the ideas presented within the final reports were aligned with items included in the City’s current

Business Plan.

The Chair spoke to his support for all three ideas as presented by the Sub-Committee and the potential opportunities that they could provide to the City, including to break down barriers and reduce isolation, ensuring safe neighbourhoods, and supporting young entrepreneurs.

The Cultural Services Manager thanked both Sub-Committees for their hard work and spoke to how the ideas within Sub-Committee B's final report could potentially be supported by the City's arts and cultural events, and through partnerships with other organizations and businesses.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Consider the questions and information outlined in Sub-Committee B's final report titled "Neighbourhood Cultural Community Report" and dated November 3, 2021; and
2. Direct staff to report back regarding the possibility of the City implementing actions in relation to current Business Plan items to address the objectives and ideas outlined in the report.

The Councillors thanked and commended the Group Leader and members of Sub-Committee B for their hard work and ideas. Councillor Mandewo spoke to the synergies between the work of the two Sub-Committees.

5. 2021 Committee Review / Potential Items for 2022 Work Plan – Committee Input

A copy of the 2021 CSAC Work Plan was provided on-screen for the Committee's reference. The Cultural Services Manager reviewed each of the 2021 Work Plan items, noting those that had been completed and those that would be carried forward to 2022.

The Chair invited the Committee to provide feedback regarding the undertakings and workings of the Committee over the past year, and to suggest potential items for the draft 2022 Work Plan.

The Chair and Vice Chair noted the robust amount of work that had been completed by the Committee, Sub-Committee, and staff during the year.

Discussion ensued relative to whether PRC staff could establish a mandate or terms of reference for sub-committees, to clarify what is required by sub-committees relative to report writing and moving proposed actions forward to the City.

In response to a question from Councillor Mandewo, the Committee expressed support for the proposed establishment of two sub-committees as part of the 2022 Work Plan.

Councillor Mandewo spoke to the valuable contributions made by the 2021 CSAC Sub-Committees and how, in future, the Committee would see the fruits of its labour as part of the staff report and Council consideration process.

6. Facility Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Cultural Services Manager noted that she had no new updates at the present time.

The Chair spoke to ongoing and upcoming planned expansions and improvements to the City's facilities, including Place Maillardville, the new YMCA in Burquitlam, and a 31-story, 300-unit rental building being constructed next to the new YMCA that would include 100 subsidized below-market rental units and be completed in late 2022.

Councillor Mandewo shared that the expansion of the City Centre Aquatic Complex was recently completed.

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, and the following was shared:

- That budget presentations were recently made to Council by the City's cultural organizations
- Details of the Coquitlam Public Library's "Holiday Hellos" Program and its series titled "Past and Present: A Conversation About Race in BC"
- That, with the latest Provincial Health Order, Evergreen Cultural Centre would resume full capacity in its theatre beginning New Year's Eve, and that tickets for the second half of theatre season would go on sale the week of November 22nd
- Expressions of appreciation from Committee members regarding their participation on the Committee
- That Operation Red Nose would be operational on New Year's Eve and those wishing to volunteer to please contact the Festival Planners Network representative
- That the Lights at Lafarge loop was being expanded and would be opening soon for the enjoyment of residents during the winter holiday season.

Councillor Marsden spoke to his participation in the "Movember 2021" fundraiser and the opportunity to support men's mental health, and prostate and testicular cancers. He thanked the Committee members for their participation and engagement during the year.

Councillor Mandewo noted her pleasure at Chairing the Committee and her appreciation for the passion and dedication shown by the Committee, Sub-Committee, and staff.

OTHER BUSINESS

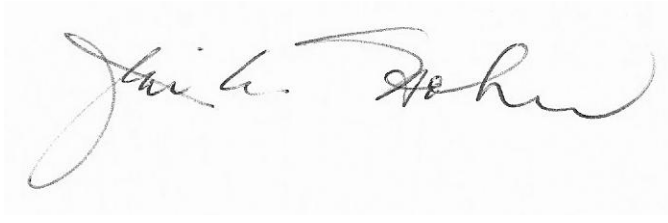
NEXT MEETING DATE – TBA (2022)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeri Hohn", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk