

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Note: This meeting will be live-streamed online at coquitlam.ca/webcasts

DATE: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: **Council Chambers via Zoom (RSVP Required)**

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022**

NEW BUSINESS

2. **Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP) Presentation**
Thábata da Costa, Program Manager TCLIP; 7:05–7:35 p.m. (30 minutes)
3. **Child Care Partnership Strategy – Implementation Update**
Torill Gillespie, Social Planner; 7:35–8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)
4. **Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee – Update**
Sub-Committee Leader; 8:05–8:20 p.m. (15 minutes)
5. **2022 Year-end Review/Identify Potential Items for the Draft 2023 Work Plan**
Staff Lead/Committee – opportunity for feedback/input; 8:20–8:40 p.m. (20 minutes)
6. **Multicultural Communities Emerging Issues/Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**
Committee Members; 8:40–8:55 p.m. (15 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBA (2023)

ADJOURNMENT



MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 15, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

- COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair
Simin Ahmadian
Carolina Echeverri
Pam Garcia
Amandeep Sangha
Honore Gbedze
Bita Rezaei
Michelle Taylor
Zahra Zaker
- REGRETS: Ann Johannes
Njeri Watkins
- ABSENT: Iris Sun
- STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager
Glen Chua, Major Project Planner
Torill Gillespie, Social Planner
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Introduction – Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Chair welcomed the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion to the meeting and she

introduced herself to the Committee, noting her new role with the City and some of her relevant personal and educational experience and background.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion spoke to the biggest challenge she had faced when acclimatizing to living in a new country overseas.

The Chair thanked the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for attending the meeting.

3. Strategic Transportation Plan Presentation

The Transportation Planning Manager introduced himself and the Major Project Planner and noted that they looked forward to receiving the Committee's input.

The Major Project Planner provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Strategic Transportation Plan Update
- Agenda
- What is the Strategic Transportation Plan?
- What is the Strategic Transportation Plan (STP)?
- Why are we updating this Plan?
- Changing Landscapes
- Changing Industry Standards
- Emerging Transportation Trends
- E-Mobility Strategy
- Alignment with City Priorities
- Integration with Regional Transportation Plans
- Project Timeline
- 5 Phases for STP Update
- Community Engagement
- Engagement Opportunities
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Thank You

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- Do you have any suggestions regarding how we can reduce barriers to participation and be as inclusive as possible during this process?
- Are there any equity or inclusivity issues you see with respect to the current transportation network in Coquitlam?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The City survey regarding the STP and whether it could be provided in different languages
- That some residents could be experiencing "survey fatigue" and whether the City could offer STP 'pop-ups' in the community as an alternative to surveys

- The possibility that local immigrant services groups could offer translation services

A Committee member volunteered to provide translation services (English into Farsi), should staff require assistance in that regard.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The suggestion that a short-form of the survey be prepared (as well as a long-form)
- The belief that quick, easy-to-fill-out surveys are more appealing to the public than long surveys
- The suggestion that links to the survey be shared via the City's social media channels, specifically on Instagram
- That the City's engagement plan was still in the development stages and details of the public consultation that would occur
- Work being undertaken by the E-Mobility Manager, including to develop strategies relative to electric vehicle charging and chargers in the city
- The locations of electric vehicle charging stations in Coquitlam and the City's plan to continue to expand the number of local charging stations, e.g. in new buildings
- The desire for the City to expand walkable accessibility and implement "car free zones" in the community
- The belief that it was tricky, and in some instances not possible, for people in wheelchairs to navigate down certain transportation routes in the city
- The suggestion that routes with "accessibility" issues be redesigned with a designated lane so that people in wheelchairs could travel safely
- Climate change, greenhouse gases, and the current high cost of gasoline
- Whether it would be possible to engage the public via a "video hub" where residents could record their Transportation questions and concerns, i.e. as an alternate way for them to provide STP survey input
- Concern that for years there have been transportation routes in around Maillardville (including Brunette Interchange and the stretch of Lougheed Highway near Ikea) that are unsafe for people living in those areas to walk, including women and youth
- Whether the City's STP could address those problems in the STP, i.e. unlit at night and dangerous to traverse at all times
- Concern that there are no protective shelters over the bus stops along the stretch of Lougheed Highway near Ikea, and the belief that for reasons of equity and inclusivity, shelters should be installed at bus stops along that route
- The suggestion that the survey should "meet folks where they are", i.e. be conducted at places where there are captive audiences, including transit hubs, bus stations, City parks, local libraries, and community centres
- The suggestion that staff should ask residents at transit hubs, bus stations, City parks, local libraries, and community centres "How did you get here today?"
- The observation that if the City conducts "pop up" surveys, it would be helpful for staff to have volunteer language interpreters or a translation app on hand
- Whether there was any available research relative to homelessness and Skytrain

- routes in/out of Coquitlam
- The high cost of transportation and whether a program could be developed to assist new immigrants, especially refugees, to help pay for their transportation costs
- Clarification regarding the jurisdiction of the Province relative to transportation costs and funding
- The financial challenges that TransLink has been experiencing as a result of the pandemic
- The understanding that in Europe solar panels are utilized to power transportation and whether that could occur locally
- The City's overarching desire to provide the public with as many transportation options as possible

Relative to the provision of translation services, a Committee member volunteered to share her contact details with the Transportation Planning Manager via the Committee Clerk.

4. Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee – Update

A Sub-Committee member provided a brief verbal update, noting the following:

- That there was no specific update
- That some outstanding matters required attention, namely that the Sub-Committee was waiting to receive updated demographic information from staff
- That performance indicators were still being worked on
- Going forward, the Sub-Committee intended to engage more actively with the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and her team
- The belief that to proceed with the Project, staff resources would be required

The Chair spoke to the new Census Canada data that would be released, the potential to have the Project added to the Committee's 2023 Work Plan, and the possibility that the Committee could make a future recommendation to Council regarding the Project. He thanked the Sub-Committee for its work to date.

The Vice Chair spoke to the possible timeline for data to come forward from Census Canada and his hope that, following that, the Committee could consider making a recommendation to Council. He noted the Sub-Committee's desire to take the right steps with the Census Canada data, and its desire that the Project could move forward in 2023.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The increasing number of refugees coming to Coquitlam and the desire to create a hopeful, safe place for them
- The lack of accurate (global) data regarding the number of war refugees
- The belief that the topic needed to be addressed in a thoughtful and sensitive way
- The belief that the Federal Government needed to financially support refugees accepted into Canada for longer than the current one-year program

- The observation that it can take time for refugees or newcomers to develop “a feeling of belonging” when they move to a new country

5. Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues Updates (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 morning and afternoon language classes had resumed in-person at the Immigrant Services Society of BC (Coquitlam Branch)
- That Festival du Bois would begin on June 16, 2022

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 20, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk