

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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

PLACE: Council Committee Room, Coquitlam City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 be approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Metro Vancouver Social Equity Project (Presentation by Stefanie Ekeli, Regional Planner, and James Stiver, Division Manager – Regional Land Use Policy, Metro Vancouver)

7:05 – 7:25 p.m. (20 minutes)

3. Climate Action Plan (Presentation by the Manager Environment)

7:25 – 7:45 p.m. (20 minutes)

4. Fraser Mills Project Update (Presentation by the Park Planning and Design Manager and Senior Project Manager)

7:45 – 8:00 p.m. (15 minutes)

5. Canada Day 2024 Event Planning – MAC Booth (Presentation Planning Assistant 1)

- Date: July 1, 2024
- Time: 12:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Location: Town Centre Park (see attached Location Map)

8:00 – 8:15 p.m. (15 minutes)

6. Cultural Understanding Project Sub-Committee Update (Introductory Comments by the Sub-Committee Lead)

8:15 – 8:30 p.m. (15 minutes)



- 7. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**
8:30 – 8:50 p.m. (20 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, June 19, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 21, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:01 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
Simin Ahmadian, Citizen Representative
Shannon Alves, Citizen Representative
Silvia Luigia Camolese, Citizen Representative
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative
Arun Ghag, Citizen Representative
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)
Bitra Rezaei, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)

REGRETS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair
Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Zeralynne Te, Community Social Development Manager
Miryana Heath, Planning Data Analyst – Community Planning
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 were approved.

Lucie Wee arrived to the meeting at this time (7:02 p.m.).

NEW BUSINESS

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2. Committee Welcome

The Committee Clerk provided introductory comments relative to the 2024 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting Schedule, Committee member attendance expectations, conflict of interest and evacuation procedures.

Nikki Kasravi and Bita Rezaei arrived to the meeting at this time (7:06 p.m.).

The Chair advised Committee members of the rationale for the MAC meeting schedule returning to a bi-monthly frequency in 2024.

There were no comments from the Committee.

3. Review and Adoption of the 2024 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Work Plan

The draft 2024 Work Plan was presented on-screen and the Community Social Development Manager provided an overview of proposed Work Plan items.

There were no comments from the Committee.

The Committee endorsed the 2024 Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 2024 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Work Plan.

4. Metro Vancouver Housing Data Release

The Community Social Development Manager provided introductory comments relative to the Metro Vancouver Housing Data Release.

The Planning Data Analyst – Community Planning provided a presentation entitled “Coquitlam Housing Snapshot” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of 2021 housing data for Metro Vancouver and Coquitlam, including definition of key terms, current housing and population trends, Coquitlam owner and renter demographics by age and income, existing versus in-stream Coquitlam housing developments and immigration housing demographics by status and place of origin

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Development timeline for current in-stream Coquitlam housing developments

- Rationale for decreased Canadian home ownership since 1980
- Concern regarding current government policies and the impact on housing supply and affordability
- Whether the City offers programs to help low-income individuals find housing and the possibility of creating future rent-to-own, adaptable and accessible housing projects
- Concern regarding housing data lacking clarity on timelines for immigrants transitioning from renting to owning and overlooking where renters are employed within municipalities
- The importance of incentives and support from the City for immigrants desiring to purchase real estate
- Metro Vancouver housing market with a focus on Coquitlam's impact, including contributing factors to the ongoing housing affordability crisis, concern that renters are being priced out of home ownership and inquiry into whether Coquitlam has implemented an empty homes tax
- Difference between the Vancouver Charter and Provincial Community Charter in terms of legislative authority
- The importance of attracting business and economic growth to make Coquitlam a live-work municipality
- City initiatives to facilitate multicultural integration in terms of public infrastructure, community spaces and how the Committee can support these initiatives
- The importance of Density Bonus in relation to funding community amenities and services

Arun Ghag left the meeting at this time (7:59 p.m.).

5. Cultural Understanding Project Update

The Sub-Committee Lead provided introductory comments that covered the following topics:

- Update regarding present status of the Cultural Understanding Project (hereon "the Project"), including survey question development timeline, concerns regarding continued delays, desire for City staff resources to be allocated for the Project and next steps for drafting a report

The Committee Clerk advised Committee members of the process for making recommendations and requesting a budget from Council.

The Chair advised the Sub-Committee Lead to hold a meeting with the Vice Chair regarding the Project's feasibility at this time and next steps for drafting a report.

Discussion ensued relative to the recent Provincial housing legislation, Bills 44, 46 and 47, regulatory timeline impact on City policies and staff resources and Committee support for the Project.

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.

The following information was shared:

- Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP) Arts of Strength: Red Egg event on February 29, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Coquitlam Library City Centre Branch and Hearts Unbound: Unveiling Anti-Oppression Insights with the Warmth of Resilience event on March 8, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Evergreen Cultural Centre
- Coquitlam Public Library hosting an open house for newcomers on May 7, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Evergreen Cultural Centre

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, April 17, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Robert Mazzarolo, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

Multiculturalism Advisory Committee

Committee Mandate

The mandate of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee is to provide a local perspective and advice to Council in support of achieving the City's strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions. The Committee's objectives are as follows:

- Foster awareness and understanding of the City's multicultural population and diversity
- Initiate and facilitate discussion around existing and emerging multiculturalism issues
- Identify barriers relative to citizen involvement in the community
- Review and provide input to Council regarding the City of Coquitlam's Multiculturalism policy
- Assist in the development of a multiculturalism policy implementation strategy for the City of Coquitlam
- Identify opportunities for public education and discussion regarding multiculturalism in the City
- Provide input into the development and implementation of programs and services that enhance the culture of the community and create educational opportunities; and
- Review and provide input on other items and matters as directed by Council.

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. Initiated by, Priority assignment A, B, C)
1) Committee Welcome	Chair/Staff	Chair/Staff
2) Review and approval of 2024 Work Plan	Chair / Committee / Staff Lead	Staff
3) Cultural Understanding Project Update - Opportunity to re-establish a Sub-Committee (Standing Agenda Item)	Committee	Chair/Committee
4) Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)	Committee	Chair/Committee
5) Metro Vancouver initiatives – Committee input, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Data Release • Social Equity Project 	P&D / Metro Vancouver Staff	Staff

2024 Work Plan Multiculturalism Advisory Committee

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. Initiated by, Priority assignment A, B, C)
6) Planning and Development Initiatives – Committee input, as needed	P&D	Staff
7) Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities initiatives – Committee input, as needed	PRCF	Staff
8) Finance and City Lands and Real Estate initiatives – Committee input, as needed	FCLRE	Staff
9) Corporate Services initiatives – Committee input, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Update 	CS	Staff Priority A
10) City Manager / Deputy City Manager – Committee input, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Strategy • Festivals and Events Strategy 	CM / DCM	Staff Priority B Priority B
11) Canada Day 2024 event planning and review – ideas/involvement to tie-into PRCF event planning	Staff Lead / PRCF / Committee	Staff
12) Welcome to Coquitlam – 2024 discussion, event planning and review	P&D	Staff/Committee
13) Engineering & Public Works initiatives for Committee input, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transportation Plan Update • Climate Action Plan 	E&PW	Staff Priority A Priority A
14) HEROS Community Emergency Preparedness Volunteer Program	Community Safety	Priority B
15) Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership presentation	TCLIP Manager	Committee
16) Guest presentation on anti-racism	Committee	Committee

**2024 Work Plan
Multiculturalism Advisory Committee**

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. Initiated by, Priority assignment A, B, C)
17) 2024 Year-end Review / Identify potential items for the draft 2025 Work Plan – Committee feedback/input	Chair / Staff Lead / Committee	Staff