



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 22, 2014

A meeting of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 6:09 pm, in Committee Room No. 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Mike Inderjot Powar, Co-Chair
Frank Yan, Co-Chair
Dr. Nancy Bell
Noam Bendor
Victoria Cruz Mendez
Janice Douglas
Joy Fan
Alexander Gist
Shirley Lei
Iris Liu
Pablo Munoz*
Yannis Nicolidakis
Hoang Nguyen
Tasha Nijjar
Mab Oloman
Mehak Sharma
Brianna Tang

ABSENT: Drew Stewart (Leave of Absence)
Samantha Truong, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)
John Adil Walker-Chagani
Anna Zhang, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer, Vancouver City Council
Commissioner Trevor Loke, Vancouver Park Board
Nicola Sharp, Social Policy
George Walker, Social Policy (*Staff Liaison*)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator
Melissa Picher Kelly, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Alexander Gist
SECONDED by Janice Douglas

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Drew Stewart, Samantha Truong and Anna Zhang, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Pablo Munoz absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Mehak Sharma

SECONDED by Victoria Cruz Mendez

THAT the minutes of the February 27, 2014, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Pablo Munoz absent for the vote)

1. Overview of Advisory Committee Procedures and Protocol

The Meeting Coordinator provided a brief overview on agenda-related procedures as outlined in the Guidelines for Civic Agencies (*distributed - on file*).

2. Updates from Parks Board meeting, Healthy City Lab, Council of Councils (Mike) and Street policies/guidelines

The Co-chairs, along with Pablo Munoz, Janice Douglas and Mab Oloman, provided brief updates on outcomes and findings from the following meetings/events, and responded to questions:

- Park Board Meeting - re: universal washrooms;
- Healthy City Lab (www.vancouver.ca/healthcity4all#healthcity4all);
- Council of Councils; and
- Street policies/guidelines.

3. Time within working group

The Committee had a brief discussion and agreed to the current set-up for working sessions. Co-Chair Powar confirmed the next working session will be on June 19, 2014, and that a list of new subcommittees and members will be forwarded prior to the meeting.

The new subcommittees follow:

1. *Communication and Advocacy*
2. *Home Economics*
3. *City Services*
4. *Civic Engagement and Community Development*

4. Discussion - Closing of community health clinics

Co-Chair Powar provided a brief update on a recent meeting he attended regarding the closing of community health clinics, including Pine Free Youth Clinic, and sought the Committee's feedback on a response to the matter. He noted a rally is scheduled for May 24, 2014, at 1 pm in front of Pine Free Youth Clinic on West 4th Avenue at Maple Street.

In discussion, the Committee agreed to assign this matter to a subcommittee at the next working session on June 19, 2014, to draft recommendations for consideration at a Special Meeting to be scheduled in July or August.

5. Program over the summer until next clerked meeting

The next working session will be held June 19, 2014.

6. Upcoming meeting with Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Co-Chair Powar reminded members of the upcoming meeting with representatives of the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee on May 28, 2014, at 5:30 pm (*location TBA*). He also reviewed the outline as follows:

- i) learn the practice of acknowledging first nations territories at the beginning of meetings;
- ii) discuss how to engage aboriginal youth with the work of the CYFAC; and
- iii) explore ways in which both committees can work together.

7. New Business

a) Make It Count Campaign

Mehak Sharma presented a draft letter on behalf of the Committee in support of the recommendations of the Fresh Voices Report and Make It Count Campaign and recommended it be sent to the Vancouver School Board and Ministry of Education.

In discussion, the Committee agreed to send the letter to Mayor and Council, with a copy to the Vancouver School Board, Ministry of Education and Mayor's Task Force on Immigration.

MOVED by Mab Oloman

SECONDED by Mehak Sharma

THAT the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee approves sending a letter in support of the recommendations of the Fresh Voices Report and Make It Count Campaign, as amended at its meeting on May 22, 2014, to Mayor and Council, with a copy to the Vancouver School Board, Ministry of Education and Mayor's Task Force on Immigration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Sharma will forward the final letter to the Meeting Coordinator for distribution.

b) Vancouver School Board - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy

Tasha Nijjar presented a draft letter on behalf of the Committee in support of the Vancouver School Board's (VSB) proposed changes to the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy and recommended it be sent to Trustee Patti Bachus, Chair, Vancouver School Board. Ms. Nijjar, along with Councillor Reimer and Commissioner Loke, responded to questions. Commissioner Loke noted the VSB will vote on this policy on June 11, 2014.

MOVED by Victoria Cruz Mendez
SECONDED by Joy Fan

THAT the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee approves sending a letter in support of proposed changes to the Vancouver School Board's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy, as amended at its meeting on May 22, 2014, to Trustee Patti Bachus, Chair, Vancouver School Board, with a copy to Mayor and Council, Trustee Mike Lombardi and the Safe School Coalition.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Nijjar will forward the final letter to the Meeting Coordinator for distribution.

c) Sanctuary City Update

Tasha Nijjar and Victoria Cruz Mendez provided a brief overview on sanctuary cities and presented a draft letter on behalf of the Committee in support of the idea of Vancouver becoming a sanctuary city and recommended it be sent to Mayor and Council for consideration.

In discussion, the Committee expressed an interest in exploring the idea of Vancouver becoming a sanctuary city but some members felt more information is required prior to making any decisions and suggested Ms. Nijjar and Ms. Cruz Mendez consider liaising with the Mayor's Task Force on Immigration. In addition, the Committee agreed to invite a representative of the Mayor's Task Force on Immigration to the next working session to discuss the idea.

d) Council Liaisons Comments

Councillor Reimer welcomed any comments or suggestions members may have on activities to celebrate International Youth Day on August 12, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Mike Inderjot Powar
SECONDED by Frank Yan

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 11, 2014
TIME: 6 pm
PLACE: Committee Room No. 1
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:03 pm.

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