



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 27, 2014

A meeting of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 27, 2014, at 6:16 pm, in Committee Room No. 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Frank Yan, Co-Chair
Samantha Truong, Co-Chair
Anna Zhang, Co-Chair
Dr. Nancy Bell
Joy Fan
Alexander Gist
Iris Liu
Yannis Nicolidakis*
Tasha Nijjar
Mehak Sharma
Brianna Tang*
John Adil Walker-Chagani

ABSENT: Noam Bendor
Janice Douglas (Leave of Absence)
Shirley Lei
Pablo Munoz
Hoang Nguyen
Mab Oloman (Leave of Absence)
Drew Stewart

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison
Nicola Sharp, Social Policy Staff Liaison
Julie Iannacone, VPL Staff Liaison

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

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Frank Yan
SECONDED by Samantha Truong

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Janice Douglas and Mab Oloman for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Yannis Nicolidakis and Brianna Tang absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Frank Yan

SECONDED by Alexander Gist

THAT the minutes of the May 22, 2014, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Yannis Nicolidakis and Brianna Tang absent for the vote)

1. Council of Councils

Co-Chair Samantha Truong encouraged all Committee members to attend the Council of Councils meeting this Monday, December 1, 2014 from 5:00 - 8:30 pm in the Town Hall, Main floor, Vancouver City Hall. Committee members should reply as soon as possible to: rsvp@vancouver.ca.

2. Sub-Committee updates - Check-in

No reports.

3. Sanctuary City Letter

Co-Chair Truong and Tasha Nijjar, presented the draft letter and backgrounder, originally prepared by former member, Victoria Cruz Mendez, and, along with Councillor Andrea Reimer, responded to questions.

MOVED by Alexander Gist

SECONDED by John Adil Walker-Chagani

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve the sending of a letter, as amended, to the Mayor and Council in support of the designation of City of Vancouver as a Sanctuary City, and to include a backgrounder attachment and to copy the Sanctuary and Solidarity Cities website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Recommendation for the Continuation of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee

Councillor Reimer provided the history and background behind the formation of the CYFA advisory committee. The Committee broke into small groups for a discussion of successes and challenges the group has faced over the past term and reported results back to the larger group.

Successes

- Committee members were proud of the diversity of the group, particularly with respect to the representation of ages, the passion about ideas and issues and how well everyone is working together.
- Committee members were proud of their growth as a committee and for their letters of support on a variety of issues concerning children, youth and families in Vancouver.
- Committee members were also pleased to have learned so much about how City Hall is run and most feel more connected to their city and are more aware of how they can benefit their communities.

Challenges

The committee suggested the following areas for improvement:

- Establish training for all committee members on using more age-appropriate communication methods around use of language, presentation styles, meeting processes and agenda setting. Suggestions for improved methods included: Presenters could conclude with a brief summary to ensure all members have understood their key points and the establishment of a buddy/mentor system between younger and older members.
- Set clear expectations of the Chair's roles and responsibilities concerning meeting and other Committee activities. And develop better guidelines for Chair(s) selection.
- Pro-actively identify outside groups to present to the Committee on issues or areas of interest.
- Better utilize sub-committees to explore issues and areas of interest as smaller groups work more effectively to capture energy and passion, before approval by the large Committee.

MOVED by Frank Yan
SECONDED by Joy Fan

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee (CYFA) recommends the continuation of the CYFA in the next Council term. This committee has made a great start in the short time we have been working together. We hope in the next term to continue working with the City to build healthier communities for children, youth and families.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. 2015 Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee Application Process Update

Councillor Reimer outlined the applications process for Civic agencies and committees and responded to questions. Councillor Reimer encouraged all current members to reapply for next term.

6. New Business

a) Acknowledgements

Co-chair Truong thanked out-going Parks Board Liaison Trevor Loke and recognized him for his amazing support from the start.

Co-Chair Samantha Truong thanked retiring Staff Liaison, George Walker, for his work and great dedication to the Committee. It has been a pleasure working with him.

b) Announcements

Tasha Nijjar reported that BC Housing is planning to sell Stamp's Place, a family and youth-friendly social housing community in the Downtown Eastside, an area that already has limited housing resources. Tasha directed members on-line to sign a petition against the sale to: <http://you.leadnow.ca/petitions/our-place-our-home-don-t-give-it-away>

Tasha Nijjar announced that Leave Out Violence (LOVE) BC, part of the Broadway Youth Resources Centre, is celebrating the opening of 30 units of social housing for youth who face issues around housing and homelessness. Official opening is December 16, 2014 with tours from 12 noon - 2:00 pm and a celebration dinner from 3:00 - 7:00 pm. All members are invited to attend.

Councillor Reimer announced that the Vancouver Parks Board's Community Centres' youth councils held their first ever city-wide Youth Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by John Adil Walker-Chagani
SECONDED by Joy Fan

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 8:07 pm.

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