



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 25, 2020

A meeting of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee was held on June 25, 2020, at 5:35 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Joseph Dunn, Co-Chair
Aleks Besan
Clark Childerhose
Jane Childerhose
Ashini Dissanayake
Tyler Doucet
Janice Douglas
Sola Ebina
May Fan
Rylan Huckabone
Eesir King
Matthew Kyi
Mab Oloman
Angie Osachoff
Anthony Santelices
Priya Singh
Edward Wong
David Zhang

ABSENT: Maeve Downing (Leave of Absence)
Attila Kovacs-Mendes (Leave of Absence)
Simrit Sandhu, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Dominato, Council Liaison
Trustee Jennifer Reddy, Vancouver School Board Liaison
Gillian Guilment-Smith, Head – Children’s Library,
Vancouver Public Library, Staff Liaison Erica Mark,
Recreation Services Coordinator, Vancouver
Park Board, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK’S OFFICE: Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

WELCOME

The Committee Clerk acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

1. Election of Co-Chairs (2020)

The Committee agreed to elect one Co-Chair from each of the three age group categories, terms to commence immediately, and end December 31, 2020. Following due process, the following members were elected by acclamation:

- Joseph Dunn (22 years old or older)
- Simrit Sandhu (between 15 and 21 years old)

The election for the Co-Chair in the 14 years old and under age group will be considered at the next regular meeting on September 24, 2020.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Ashini Dissanayake
SECONDED by Priya Singh

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Maeve Downing, Attila Kovacs-Mendes, and Simrit Sandhu for today's meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of M minutes – January 30, 2020

MOVED by Angie Osachoff
SECONDED by Sola Ebina

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of January 30, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Motion

Ashini Dissanayake introduced the motion and provided background information. Joseph Dunn provided further comments on why sending a letter regarding the Granville Bridge Connector should be supported by the Committee.

a. Granville Bridge Connector – Letter of Support

MOVED by Ashini Dissanayake
SECONDED by Janice Douglas

THAT the Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Committee direct the Co-Chairs, on behalf of the Committee, to write to Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver City Council expressing the Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Committee's utmost support for the proposed Granville Bridge Connector;

FURTHER THAT in this letter, the Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Committee outline the benefits the proposed Granville Bridge Connector will provide for children, youth, and families in Vancouver, and urge council to vote in favour of this proposal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note: The Committee's letter to City Council dated June 25, 2020, is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

5. Liaison Updates

Councillor Dominato, Council Liaison, acknowledged the difficulties and challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also provided brief updates on the following council activities:

- Restart Smart Vancouver, which includes re-opening of the libraries, parks and recreational pools;
- Council meetings, public attendance by phone or in person;
- Economic recovery and budget shortfalls;
- Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee, staff to review Capital Plan projects.

Councillor Dominato also responded to questions from the Committee.

Trustee Jennifer Reddy, Vancouver School Board Liaison, provided updates on the following:

- Vancouver Police Department School Liaison program;
- COVID-19 Anti-racism Proactive Direction, which includes a training proposal for the fall;
- Land and Assets Strategy; and
- Incidents of Racism Database.

Gillian Guilmant-Smith, Staff Liaison, provided an update on the phased approach to re-opening Library activities, curbside service pick-ups, and summer reading clubs for children. Gillian also noted the Central Children's Library will reopen on July 13, 2020.

Erica Mark, Staff Liaison, provided an update on Park Board activities:

- Day camps up and running, with some Programmers called back from lay-offs to run the day camps;
- The Community Youth Workers (CYWs) have not been called back at this time. Concerns were expressed by a member on the mental health issues with youth during the pandemic, and the lack of CYWs available to support them. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to share this feedback with Council via email.

6. Area of Focus Updates

Joseph Dunn requested that all Advisory Committee members consider their interests and passions in the specific sub-committee Focus Areas, and contact him to become part of the sub-committee meetings. He noted, that while some Focus Areas have a lead who will bring together interested sub-committee members to discuss planning and recommendations to the Advisory Committee (e.g. Janice - Housing), other Focus Areas still require a lead.

a. Housing

Janice Douglas shared her concerns regarding the lack of open, green, living space in new housing developments for children, youth and families, and is looking for members to join this area of focus. Discussion followed, with Stina Hanson to provide an update on the subject at a future committee meeting.

b. Environment

Anthony Santelices provided an update, including possible change to this area of focus due to the pandemic.

c. Mental Health

Joseph Dunn, invited ideas on mental health conversation start-ups; suggested responses included social media posts and a newsletter. Gillian Guilman-Smith, Staff Liaison, will look into the possibility of a presentation on resources from Kelty Mental Health at a future committee meeting. Erica Mark, Staff Liaison, will circulate a counselling list of youth services to the committee.

d. Child and Youth Engagement

Angie Osachoff proposed combining Child and Youth Engagement and Education into one area of focus for efficiency and action.

e. Education

None.

7. New Business

a) Vancouver Plan

Stina Hanson, Child and Youth Engagement Planner, Vancouver Plan, provided updates on the Vancouver Plan, which included digital engagement activities and resources for children and youth. She also noted that committee member representatives, who are willing to facilitate discussions, are needed for a digital class charrette, and can, contact her at stina.hanson@vancouver.ca or 604.786.2078, if interested. Stina also acknowledged Rylan Huckabone for speaking on behalf of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, at Council on March 13, 2020 regarding the Vancouver Plan.

b) Vancouver Police Department School Liaison Program

Aleks Besan shared her concerns with lack of public input on the Vancouver Police Department School Liaison program at a recent Vancouver School Board meeting she attended, and suggested the Committee could be influential in the community by responding on this matter. Joseph Dunn noted that the Committee could support Aleks' efforts by taking a position and contacting Council and Park Board liaisons by email.

Prior to adjournment, Joseph Dunn acknowledge Anthony Santelices, Edward Wong, and Maeve Downing, the outgoing Co-Chairs, for their committee contributions in 2019 and 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Aleks Besan
SECONDED by Janice Douglas

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: September 24, 2020
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:42 pm.

* * * * *