



## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

A meeting of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee was held on September 24, 2020, at 5:52 pm, by electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Joseph Dunn, Co-Chair  
Aleks Besan  
Ashini Dissanayake  
Janice Douglas  
Joseph Dunn  
Maeve Downing, Co-Chair \*  
Sola Ebina  
Matthew Kyi  
Mab Oloman  
Angie Osachoff  
Simrit Sandhu, Co-Chair \*  
Anthony Santelices  
David Zhang

**ABSENT:** Clark Childerhose  
Jane Childerhose  
Tyler Doucet  
May Fan (Leave of Absence)  
Rylan Huckabone  
Eesir King  
Attila Kovacs-Mendes  
Priya Singh

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Lisa Dominato, Council Liaison  
Gillian Guilmant-Smith, Head-Children's Library,  
Vancouver Public Library, Staff Liaison  
Erica Mark, Recreation Services Coordinator, Vancouver  
Park Board, Staff Liaison  
Stina Hanson, Child and Youth Engagement Planner,  
Vancouver Plan

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

## **WELCOME**

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh Nations.

### **1. Election of Co-Chair (2020)**

The Committee agreed to elect the third Co-Chair for the age group category of 14 years old or younger, term to commence immediately, and end December 31, 2020. Following due process, the following member was elected by acclamation:

- Maeve Downing (14 years old and younger)

### **2. Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Maeve Downing  
SECONDED by Ashini Dissanayake

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve leave of absence for May Fan, for today's meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by David Zhang  
SECONDED by Aleks Besan

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of June 25, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **4. Liaison Updates**

Councillor Dominato, Council Liaison, reported on the following:

- Acknowledged the emotional toll the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the community;
- Capital plan recalibration to make room for cash flow;
- Additional washrooms added in the Downtown Eastside;
- Granville Bridge Connector scheduled for City Finance and Services Committee meeting, September 29, 2020. Staff are recommending moving ahead with the project in phases.
- Council has asked staff for emergency housing recommendations for Strathcona Park homeless encampment;
- Vancouver School Board is fencing around school property borders;
- The staff report requested by the Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee, will be scheduled for a fall Council date;

- The Province of BC is providing COVID-19 pandemic funding for city operations, which includes two navigation centres in Metro Vancouver.

Gillian Guilmant-Smith, Staff Liaison, provided an update on the following Vancouver Public Library services:

- All library locations have been gradually re-opening for limited services, go to [www.vpl.ca](http://www.vpl.ca) for branch hours and services;
- Safety protocols are in place, including returned books being quarantined;
- E-books are available;
- Teen resources available at <https://www.vpl.ca/guide/teens-vpl>;
- Variety of virtual programming available;
- Updates to library services being communicated through the Vancouver School Board to students.

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

- Youth workers completed outreach in 13 parks, with 729 in-person youth engagements for a total of 3000 engagements during the summer;
- All youth workers are back for the fall;
- Youth workers are reviewing safety protocols for programs;
- Staff Liaison reviewing partnerships with youth mental health organizations;
- Youth centres are offering engagement in a safe and limited manner.

Stina Hanson, Child and Youth Engagement Planner, reported on the following:

- Acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their programming;
- It was a busy summer launching child and youth engagements;
- Conducted two digital events focusing on neighborhood groups and organizations who reached out for youth engagement sessions;
- Planning a hackathon for high school and university students, seeking ideas;
- A youth panel series will be launched in late October;
- Four Youth Navigators have been hired to start a dialogue with specific youth neighborhoods;

## **5. Area of Focus Updates**

Co-Chair, Joseph Dunn, reviewed the Committees' area of focus: Housing, Environment, Mental Health, Child and Youth Engagement and Education, and asked committee members to contact him with subcommittee interests.

### **a. Housing**

Janice Douglas (Lead), provided an update on green space and housing, and asked for committee feedback. David Zhang will join this area of focus.

**b. Environment Sustainability**

Mab Oloman (Lead), May Fan, and Anthony Santelices, expressed interest in joining this area of focus.

**c. Mental Health**

Katherine Moore (Lead) UBC Health Researcher, Priya Singh, and Maeve Downing will meet to review mental health resources and identify gaps.

**d. Child & Youth Engagement and Education**

Angie Osachoff (Lead), Aleks Besan, Ashini Dissanayake, Maeve Downing, and Sola Ebina expressed interest in joining this area of focus. City Hive has offered to meet with this subcommittee.

**6. New Business**

**a) City of Vancouver COVID-19 Recovery Workshop**

Co-Chair, Joseph Dunn, reminded members of the upcoming WebEx workshop on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, from 10 am to 12 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Aleks Besan  
SECONDED by Mab Oloman

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Maeve Downing and Simrit Sandhu absent for the vote.)

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: November 19, 2020  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:38 pm.

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