



## URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**September 17, 2018**

A meeting of the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee was held on Monday, September 17, 2018, at 5:35 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Steven Eastman, Chair  
Eric Anderson  
Shauna Johnson  
Penny Kerrigan  
Rennie Nahnee  
Winona Stevens\*  
Teyem Thomas  
David Wells

**ABSENT:** Lillian Howard  
Jeane Riley  
Cameron Zubko

**ALSO PRESENT:** Trustee Janet Fraser, Vancouver School Board  
Inspector Suzanne Muir, Vancouver Police Department  
Spencer - Communications

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

#### **Leave of Absence Requests**

None.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Eric Anderson  
SECONDED by David Wells

THAT the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of May 14, 2018, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Winona Stevens absent for the vote)

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*The Committee agreed to deal with an item of New Business regarding traditional burnings prior to item 1. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.*

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### **1. Creative City**

Metha Brown, Arts, Culture and Community Services, provided an overview of Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Creative City Strategy, including early findings, and asked the Committee for ideas on what the City should be doing and what they consider priorities to shaping Indigenous arts and culture.

Committee members and staff liaisons provided ideas noting that there is a need to recognize Indigenous history, there is a gap in capacity building, and needing a space for culture and community and more outreach for grants and opportunities.

Ms. Brown agreed to send a follow-up email.

### **2. On Water Strategy**

Megan Herod, Parks and Recreation, provided an overview of the On Water strategy which looks to improve access to recreational use of waterways. She noted that currently they are looking for ideas on how to provide better opportunities to support users and storage for traditional Indigenous watercraft. Ms. Herod also responded to questions.

### **3. Missing & Murdered Women & Girls Update**

In discussion, it was suggested that a meeting with all stakeholders of the Saa'ust Centre should take place in order to identify the needs of the community and how the Centre can meet those needs, now that the Inquiry is close to wrapping up.

Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director of Social Policy and Projects, provided an overview of events at the Centre, noting that additional funding has been approved by Council in order to keep the Centre open. She agreed to send a general update to the Committee about the Saa'ust Centre.

Constable Suzanne Muir, Vancouver Police Department (VPD), noted VPD is very interested in conferring and gaining insight on the Centre.

MOVED by Steven Eastman  
SECONDED by Penny Kerrigan

THAT the City convene a meeting between the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee, the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre, and Saa'ust Centre staff to attend a meeting by October 31, 2018, in order to ascertain the needs of the Community and develop ideas on how to meet those needs;

FURTHER THAT the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee recommend the creation of an advisory body to assist with future operations of the Saa'ust Centre.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Penny Kerrigan noted the hearings on the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls Inquiry will be wrapping up in October with a report expected in Spring 2019.

#### **4. Liaison Updates**

Spencer Lindsay, Public Involvement, noted the City is developing an Indigenous writing style guide and scoping a guide on Indigenous engagement for City-wide uses.

Constable Suzanne Muir, Vancouver Police Department, noted the department has hired an Indigenous Protocol Officer who will be leading an Indigenous Advisory Committee for the department, and the Indigenous cadet program will continue in 2019 with five positions.

Sophie Middleton, Vancouver Public Library, noted the rooftop garden at the main branch will open September 29, 2018, and agreed to forward an invitation to the Committee.

Lesley Campbell, Social Policy and Projects, noted the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Committee (MVAEC) is working on an urban Indigenous strategy. She also noted that in the City's new temporary modular housing, almost 40% of those housed are Indigenous.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **a. Traditional burnings**

The Chair shared a letter from a member of the public regarding costs around performing traditional burnings, and requesting permanent locations for traditional sacred burning (*on file*).

Lesley Campbell, Social Policy and Projects, provided an update noting that a firepit is an item for the Northeast False Creek Development, and that the Park Board is looking at traditional burnings as part of their colonial audit.

Discussion followed, including:

- Sharing of practices around traditional burnings
- noted that the ceremonies are often private in nature and not intended for the public to view. there is a need to balance the bureaucracy of running a City with Indigenous needs,
- general opinion was that people should not be charged fees (e.g. – cost of a fire permit) for traditional burnings.

The Committee agreed this matter should be discussed with City, Fire and Rescue Services, and Parks staff.

**b. Future Committee**

The Chair noted it is a practice for the outgoing Committee to develop some recommendations for the new Committee, and to recommend to the next Council that the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee be re-created.

Penny Kerrigan and Winona Stevens agreed to coordinate a working session between this meeting and the October 15, 2018, meeting for these purposes.

**Adjournment**

MOVED by Eric Anderson  
SECONDED by David Wells

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Monday, October 15, 2018  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Committee Room 1  
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:25 pm.

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