



**AGENDA – WELCOMING CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**September 3, 2024, 5:00 P.M.**

**ESQUIMALT NATION ROOM, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE**

**The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations**

**Meeting conducted electronically via Teams and in-person**

**PRESENT:** Sandra Hough in the Chair, Nora Butz, Maureen Sawa, Aguirre, Jibril Mohamed

**PRESENT**

**ELECTRONICALLY:** Daniela dos Santos Pinto, Isidoro Emmanuel, Luis Gutiérrez

**ABSENT:** Fiona Bramble, Florentien Verhage

**STAFF PRESENT:** A. Galiev – Equity Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mangué Alene – Equity and Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, A. Heimburger – Legislative Coordinator

**A. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved By** D. Dos Santos Pinto

**Seconded By** M. Sawa

That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. READING OF MINUTES**

**C.1 Minutes from the meeting held on July 2, 2024**

**Moved By** N. Butz

**Seconded By** M. Sawa

That the minutes from the Welcoming City Advisory Committee held July 2, 2024 be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### **D.1 Community Conversation #1: Post Event Feedback**

The Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator provided a recap of the *Community Conversations: Building Belonging in Schools* event held on July 10, 2024, noting that the event was well attended and that participants expressed interest in attending similar future events.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Lack of capacity for City to organize and facilitate additional sessions for participants expressing interest in continuing discussions*
- *Potential for the City to accommodate interested participants' continuation of these conversations and networking opportunities*
- *City facilitation of a distribution list to connect interested participants*
- *Welcoming City Implementation Strategy*

### **D.2 Community Conversation #2: Belonging in Recreation (September 12, 2024)**

The Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator provided an overview of the upcoming *Community Conversations: Belonging Recreation and Sports* event scheduled for September 12, 2024 at the Philippine Bayanihan Community Centre.

## **E. Committee Roundtable**

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Ongoing and upcoming Chinese community events hosted by the Chinese Community Centre:*
  - *Subsidized senior's luncheon to celebrate the Autumn Festival*
  - *Elections BC registration and awareness campaign*
- *Community concerns regarding racial profiling of families at recreation centres and by landlords and sheltering providers*
  - *The City of Victoria's accessibility reporting mechanism as a tool for reporting and investigating experiences of racism within the City*
  - *BC Government's Racism Incident Helpline (1-833-457-5463)*
  - *Desire to invite community leaders to share their communities' experiences*
- *Purpose-Built Rental Buildings*
  - *City of Victoria, through the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion office, working with property managers and owners of purpose-built rental buildings to provide support to ensure an equitable tenancy selection process*
  - *Challenges of ensuring an equitable process if landlord is an individual versus a corporation*
- *Overview of ongoing and upcoming events hosted by the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)*
  - *AGM to be held September 18<sup>th</sup>*
  - *Upcoming open house at VIRCS to spread awareness of programming*
- *Overview of ongoing and upcoming events hosted by the Philippine Bayanihan Community Centre*
  - *Support and welcoming event for students coming from Philippines to attend UVic*

- *Future of Bayanihan community centre and upcoming discussions with Victoria MLA and City of Victoria Mayor*
- *Overview of ongoing and upcoming events hosted by the Vancouver Island Brazillian Cultural Association*
  - *Summer series of dancing classes at George Jay Park*
  - *Coordination of a blood drive*
- *Overview of ongoing and upcoming events hosted by the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)*
  - *Addition of two new permanent staff positions geared toward community development, safety and inclusion:*
    - *Community Navigator*
    - *Safety and Security Coordinator*
  - *Addressing the challenge of balancing the need for security with friendliness and while promoting inclusion*
- *Overview of City of Victoria projects in progress:*
  - *Mapping out equities & inequities project*
    - *Resource allows users to view neighbourhoods to understand where gaps are with access to recreation, support services, etc.*
  - *Considering intersectionality of different groups*
  - *BlindSquare application*
    - *Assists those with visual impairment to navigate spaces*
    - *Intention to offer in languages in addition to English*
  - *“Complete Communities” Grant funding from the Union of BC Municipalities*
    - *Research and analysis on the livability, accessibility and welcoming nature of communities within the City*
    - *Welcoming City Advisory Committee to be engaged*
- *Challenges faced by newcomers in navigating recreation programming and education system*
  - *Language barriers and lack of translating services*
- *Need for additional, subsidized supports for children and families to learn English*

**F. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – November 5, 2024**

There was no discussion on this topic.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

*Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**