



CITY OF VANCOUVER

OTHER REPORT

Report Date: June 7, 2007
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Meeting Date: June 28, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
FROM: Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues
SUBJECT: Annual Report for the Year 2006: Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received for information.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits the foregoing for INFORMATION

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2006

BACKGROUND

The Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues was established by Council on December 11, 2003.

Objective

The Committee is advisory to City Council. The mandate of the Committee is to work to enhance access to City services for Vancouver's diverse communities, including the multicultural, Aboriginal and lesbian/gay/transgender/bisexual communities, and to identify and suggest solutions to gaps and barriers that impede their full participation in all aspects of City life.

Terms of Reference

The Committee:

- advises on matters which affect diverse communities, including, but not limited to:
 - providing City staff with information on issues related to diversity - e.g. addressing racism and discrimination issues, e.g. hate crime, graffiti, civic rental policy;
 - acting as a resource and providing input to staff doing working which involves diverse communities, e.g. housing, youth and seniors, culture and recreation, and community outreach;
 - works collaboratively with staff on events/initiatives which celebrate diversity, e.g. Cultural Harmony Awards, City Hall Lights Program, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
- contributes to City programs and policies to ensure that the needs of diverse communities are considered;
- views City programs and policies through a variety of lenses, including gender, racial origins, income levels, sexual orientation, age and levels of ability.
- works co-operatively with other civic agencies whose activities affect diverse communities;
- engages in outreach to the diverse communities to disseminate information and encourage participation;
- acts as a conduit for feedback from the diverse communities on civic matters affecting them;
- acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes in diverse communities;
- supports groups endeavouring to initiate and develop projects to assist diverse communities;
- attends City-sponsored public forums to provide information on City programs and receive public input on diversity issues;
- produces an annual work plan with specific objectives by no later than March of each year, in consultation with its Council and staff liaisons, for distribution to Council and civic departments for information;
- submits an annual report to Council describing its accomplishments for the year, including reference to each objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the Committee has responded.

2006 Committee Members of the Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues:

- Holly Alyea
- Barbara Downs
- Clyde Duncan, Chair
- Saeed Dyanatkar
- Jackie Haywood

- Dr. Victoria Marie
- Maureen Mochuk
- Olga Shcherbyna, Vice-Chair
- Aaron Sihota
- Emese Szúcs

ELECTED LIAISONS

Councillor Tim Stevenson, City of Vancouver
Commissioner Spencer Herbert, Vancouver Park Board
Trustee Sharon Gregson, Vancouver School Board

STAFF LIAISONS

Rajpal Kohli, Equal Employment Office
Baldwin Wong, Social Planning

MEETING COORDINATOR

Diane Clairmont, City Clerk's Office

DISCUSSION

1. Guest Presenters

Names of Presenters	Subject
Lieutenant Johanna Wickie, and Sergeant Huf Mullick, South Asian Outreach Coordinator, Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre, Vancouver	Presentation on diversity within the Canadian Forces and sought committee's input on how to reach out to diverse communities.
Angela Brown, Anti-Racism & Diversity Consultant of the Vancouver School Board [VSB]	Presented an overview of her role and activities with the VSB related to multiculturalism and anti-racism education.

2. Significant Activities:

It should be noted that the Committee has been working under the uncertainty of interim status during 2005 and 2006. However, members have continued to work hard and following is the list of accomplishments.

a) Outreach Activities:

On behalf of the Committee, Dr. Victoria Marie attended the Vancouver School Board Antiracism Task Force meeting and contributed to the discussion on anti-racism and multiculturalism issues from the Committee's perspective.

Olga Shcherbyna represented the Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues at the Mayor's Immigration Task Force and attended a number of meetings during the year. As a result, she contributed to the development of the group's work plan, which included the preparation of City vision statement which reaffirms the values and contributions of newcomers to the city,

development of City's antiracism activities and practical solutions for the City to enhance immigrants' economic and social integration into Canadian society.

Maureen Mochuk, on behalf of the Committee, participated as a juror during the adjudication process of the 2006 Cultural Harmony Awards.

b) Olympics 2010

Saeed Dyanatkar, on behalf of the Committee, framed recommendations and submissions for the 2010 Olympic Task Force.

Members held meetings with staff and received updates on how the organizing groups such as VANOC were dealing with diversity in their plans for the Games. In addition, a letter was sent to VANOC by Saeed Dyanatkar on behalf of the Committee. The response has been received and is pending discussion by the newly established advisory committee.

c) Survey on Diversity among Civic Advisory Bodies

In 2005 the Committee conducted a survey investigating both the extent and understanding of how membership of other civic bodies represented the true diversity of the City's residents. A memo with this information was sent on February 22, 2006 to the Triple R Review Panel.

3. Future Directions

The Committee will continue working with City staff and citizens to enhance access to City services for diverse communities.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

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