

**City of Chilliwack
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON
INCLUSIVENESS, DIVERSITY AND ACCESSIBILITY
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020 – 3:30 pm
Held Electronically**

Council Members:

Jason Lum, Councillor, Co-Chair
Bud Mercer, Councillor, Co-Chair

Task Force Members:

Justin Mallard, Business Development Manager
Derek Epp, Chief, Tzeachten First Nation
Leanna Kemp, Executive Director, Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce
Leandra Ndayifukamiye, Aboriginal Representative, Student
Helen Edwards, Deputy Executive Director, Chilliwack Community Services
Julia Lamb, Disability Advocate and Activist

City Staff:

Jamie Leggatt, Director of Communications, Staff Liaison
Carol Marleau, Manager of Recreation Services & Corporate Wellness
Ted Chu, Community Coordinator
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Ken Popove, Mayor, Co-Chair
Fatima Zaidi, CEO, Project Instigate, Board Director of KPU Alumni Association, Crisis Interventionist, & Learning Strategist
Saylesh Wesley, Aboriginal Education Enhancement and Learning Support Teacher

Guests:

Kathleen MacKinnon, CEO Nine Rising, Consultant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Bud Mercer, Co-Chair, acknowledged we are on the unceded territory of the Stó:lō people and called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda for the Mayor's Task Force on Inclusiveness, Diversity and Accessibility
Seconded (meeting of Monday, November 2, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes for the Mayor's Task Force on Inclusiveness, Diversity and
Seconded (Accessibility meeting of Tuesday, September 29, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

6. NEW BUSINESS

1. Advisory Committees – Roles and Responsibilities / MTFIDA Terms of Reference Review

Jamie Leggatt, Staff Liaison, Director of Communications, provided a brief presentation regarding Council committees, their roles and responsibilities. Council committees are created to engage with the community, to receive advice, ideas and feedback, and to provide opportunities for residents to get involved. Information regarding provincial legislation, types of committees and authority of committees was also provided.

The Terms of Reference for the Mayor's Task Force on Inclusiveness, Diversity and Accessibility (MTFIDA) was reviewed, including the committee's purpose, goals and committee membership. An overview was provided regarding the process of membership selection as there are three vacant seats currently on the MTFIDA.

Co-Chair Lum conducted a quick poll to gauge how many members felt the current vacancies should be filled. The committee is in favour of filling the vacancies; and as such, the Staff Liaison and Co-Chairs will follow the procedure as stated in the Terms of Reference regarding the vacancies.

Helen Edwards joined the meeting at 3:45 pm.

2. Neighbourhood Grant Program: Celebration & Activity Grant, Youth Engagement Projects (YEP) Grant and CDI Funding

Ted Chu, Community Coordinator, City of Chilliwack, provided a presentation regarding the City's Neighbourhood Grant Program: [Celebration and Activity Grant](#) and the [Youth Engagement Projects \(YEP\) Grant](#).

Neighbourhood Grant:

The Neighbourhood Grant Program has been developed to support residents and organizations that have small but powerful ideas that will bring together and enhance connectedness, belonging and promote positive social awareness. The program history, event statistics and application process were provided. Previous events held under the Neighbourhood Grant were highlighted. While the program already encourages events that are inclusive, diverse and accessible, the City would like feedback from the MTFIDA on how to improve language within the marketing materials to provide increased clarity of those goals.

6. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

CDI Funding:

Carol Marleau, Manager of Recreation Services and Corporate Wellness, provided a brief overview of the Community Development Initiatives (CDI) Funding Policy; whereby, the City of Chilliwack works in partnership with many private and not-for-profit agencies to provide services to the community. The City manages these services through grants or agreements. The operating of the museum, leisure centres, Chilliwack Cultural Centre, as well as programs delivered through the community schools and YMCA are examples of these partnerships. Other CDI funding is also made available to support services such as the Chilliwack Society For Community Living (CSCL) and the Leisure Access Pass. Three programs under Chilliwack Community Services were highlighted: the Youth Outreach Program, Afternoon Adventures and the Youth Drop-in Centre. The Afternoon Adventurer program has now increased to seven programs reaching over 400 youth in elementary and middle schools in Chilliwack. In 2018, the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was implemented by Chilliwack Community Services in partnership with many local agencies. The City of Chilliwack also provides employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through partnering with the Chilliwack Society For Community Living.

Discussion ensued regarding the Neighbourhood Grant Program and opportunities to make the marketing materials and application process more accessible and inclusive, while advertising the program to more diverse groups. A query was raised regarding the accessibility of applications on the City of Chilliwack's website; staff noted the Neighbourhood Grant Program is currently available on-line and staff are available to assist anyone who requires help filling out the form. The committee is encouraged to review the application process and provide any suggestions on how to make it more accessible.

Discussion ensued regarding no-barrier playgrounds in Chilliwack. In August 2020, the City recently expanded Promontory Park West and implemented a new inclusive play area with accessible play features. A further project that will include a no-barrier playground is Robertson Elementary School.

A query was raised regarding the type of positions individuals employed at the City of Chilliwack through Chilliwack Community Services hold; and, whether their employment is limited to caretaker/janitorial positions. Staff noted the City is a unionized organization with a collective agreement in place; and as such, positions are typically in a caretaker/janitor capacity.

Ted Chu and Carol Marleau left the meeting at 4:04 pm.

3. MTFIDA Overview

Kathleen MacKinnon, CEO Nine Rising, Consultant, provided an overview of the MTFIDA's work to date as a committee and outside of the committee. Kathleen reviewed the 'committee agreed upon values' brought forward by the MTFIDA.

Next Steps:

- Advocate for marginalized voices & bring forward opportunities to Council
- Develop a list of programming and services currently available in the community that promote accessibility, inclusiveness and diversity, and identify gaps for consideration.
- Explore opportunities for public art that promote inclusiveness, diversity and accessibility
- Review barriers to accessibility (i.e. City sidewalks, facilities, services)

6. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Kathleen MacKinnon discussed oppressive systems vs dismantling and commended the task force for the brave and sometimes uncomfortable discussion of equity work. A list of references was provided to the committee.

Co-Chair Lum commended the hard work the committee has completed to date. After reviewing a number of the City of Chilliwack's systems, policies and programs; and, as the MTFIDA moves into the next phase, Co-Chair Lum encouraged members to reach out to their resources and networks for feedback and expertise regarding building inclusion and accessibility in the community.

4. Accessibility Advisory Panel (AAP) Update

Julia Lamb, MTFIDA Member, provided an update regarding the Accessibility Advisory Panel, which she has led on behalf of the MTFIDA. The panel has met on several occasions to discuss various accessibility issues. Julia informed the committee that the AAP will be meeting with the Engineering Department regarding signage, such as the International Symbol of Access (ISA), otherwise known as the wheelchair symbol. The AAP has suggested an updated version be implemented. If possible, the panel would also like to sit in on a future Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting when the Pedestrian Plan is on the TAC agenda. The AAP has been invited to the next MTFIDA meeting, at which time, there are tentative plans to have a presentation from the Planning and Engineering Department.

Discussion continued regarding next steps; Kathleen will be meeting with the Open Doors Task Team and the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC); at which time, these groups will review and provide comment with respect to the MTFIDA's work to date. Kathleen will be meeting with City of Chilliwack staff to facilitate relationship building meetings between the Co-Chairs and key members of neighbouring First Nations communities.

Leandra Ndayifukamiye, Aboriginal Representative and student, provided comment regarding feedback and concern she has been receiving over the recent death of an Indigenous teen in an Abbotsford group home. Chief Epp provided further information regarding the incident and encouraged Leandra to contact him if she needs further assistance regarding this matter.

Chief Derek Epp left the meeting at 4:26 pm.

Co-Chair Lum acknowledged there is a strong urgency needed to unite together on advocacy issues and efforts for additional supports including funding, both on and off Reserve, for Indigenous communities.

7. INFORMATION

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Co-Chairs.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Co-Chair