



Virtual Meeting of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 5:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Commissioner Franci Stratton
Commissioner Holly Back
Commissioner Mary Carmichael
Commissioner Cyndi Gerlach
Commissioner Angela Girard
Commissioner Herman Mah
Commissioner John Moore
Commissioner Lisa Muri
Commissioner Kate Smyth
Commissioner Dave Wilson

Staff: Heather Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture
Jennifer Wilson, Manager, Recreation & Culture Services
Gary Houg, Manager, Maintenance & Engineering Services
Howard Kiang, Assistant Manager, Maintenance & Engineering Services
Karen Bickford, Section Manager, Finance
Anne Rodgers, Section Manager, Communications, Marketing & Special Initiatives
Janet Wallace, Coordinator
Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Commissioner Betty Forbes

I. Call to Order

Chair Stratton called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner Girard

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Girard; **seconded** by Commissioner Gerlach

THAT the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting be adopted.

Carried

IV. Director's Report

Director Turner highlighted items in the report. Karen Bickford, Section Manager, Finance, provided a verbal update on the unaudited 2020 financials and answered Commissioner questions. Director Turner advised that more information will be presented at the May meeting.

Director Turner answered questions:

- On the Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre; an update at a future meeting will be provided.
- On the closure of the Harry Jerome Community Recreation Complex at the end of the year and the closure plan; staff will report back to the Commission and City Council.
- The new "No-Show Procedure"; this is a pilot procedure and will be reviewed and adjusted as appropriate.

Director Turner asked Jennifer Wilson, Manager of Recreation & Culture Services, to answer Commissioner questions on outdoor activities (current and potential future programming).

In addition, Director Turner remarked on the approaching anniversary of the facility closures due to the pandemic.

V. Items for Information

a) Financial Assistance Program Update

Moved by Commissioner Mah; **seconded** by Commissioner Back

THAT the report be received for information.

Carried

Director Turner introduced Janet Wallace, Coordinator, who has been responsible for the program for a number of years. J. Wallace spoke to the decline in participation due to the pandemic in 2020 (i.e. facility closures leading to program suspension). As programs and services have partially resumed, staff have noted an increase in calls from individuals and support agencies.

Following questions from Commissioners, J. Wilson provided information on identified barriers to participation. Chair Stratton suggested staff ensure that information on the program is more accessible on the website (since visibility was identified as a barrier). She added that since not all families and children are attached to support agencies, it is important to reach out to people within the community. Commissioner Mah suggested other support organisations. J. Wallace provided information on current outreach efforts with support agencies, and thanked Commissioner Mah for his suggestion.

Following a question from Commissioner Carmichael on other potential barriers, J. Wallace provided information on the program's low-barrier approval process, staff's close work with similar organisations, and free/low-cost programming offered to all (regardless of someone's financial situation).

b) 2021 Committee Appointments

No comments.

VI. Items for Discussion/Decision

a) Anti-racism Initiative

Director Turner introduced Anne Rodgers, Section Manager, Communications, Marketing & Special Initiatives, who spoke to the report. A. Rodgers also highlighted how the Commissioners can expect to be involved at this stage, and advised that the Commissioners will participate in spring workshops with the senior leadership team.

The Commissioners provided feedback:

- Commissioner Girard spoke to City Council's process.
- Commissioner Wilson suggested a mention of "unconscious bias" be added.
- Chair Stratton asked if there will be consultation with the public/user groups to receive their feedback. She also spoke to the School District's initiatives and suggested a collaboration be added to the Commission's initiative. Regarding reconciliation, she suggested acknowledgement of First Nations lands at the start of Commission Meetings, as well as the possibility of First Nation representation on the Commission.
- Commissioner Muri spoke to current District Council and Metro Vancouver initiatives.

Moved by Commissioner Girard; **seconded** by Commissioner Back

THAT the Commission approve in principle the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission's Anti-racism Initiative.

Carried

VII. Other Business

a) Director Turner informed the Commissioners that Gary Houg, Manager of Maintenance & Engineering, is retiring shortly and this was his last meeting. She added that he has served the organisation, City and District municipalities, and residents very well.

G. Houg mentioned how fortunate and grateful he felt to have worked for the Commission for such a long time. He thanked the Commissioners and added that Howard Kiang, Assistant Manager, Maintenance & Engineering Services, was in attendance, and will be replacing him.

Director Turner thanked G. Houg for his unique contribution. Commissioner Muri thanked him on behalf of the District, and the other Commissioners thanked him as well.

- b) Commissioner Back asked about meeting attendance protocol (i.e. if a Commissioner misses more than three consecutive meetings). Director Turner confirmed that there is language in the Establishing bylaws that speaks to this issue and that certain discretion is provided to the Commission Chair.

No further business was brought forward.

VIII. Next Meetings

- Special Meeting, Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm
- Regular Meeting, Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Chair Stratton suggested indicating approximate meeting end times in future.

IX. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Muri; **seconded** by Commissioner Wilson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:19 pm.

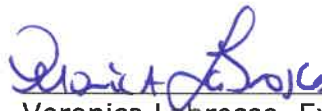
Carried

Approved:



Franci Stratton, Chair

Recorded by:



Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

Mar 11, 2022

Date