



ARTS, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Open to public attendance in Committee Room G

Lower Level, City Hall

Committee members may attend electronically

PRESENT

Councillor Ruby Campbell
Angie Whitfield

Gerardo Corro Amador
Ailed Duarte Martinez*

Jorden Foss

Andy Gomez Zamora

Laura Grady
Vera Kobalia
Tamsen McDonough
Angelene Prakash
Jessica Schneider*
Bart Slotman
Paige Strand*

Catherine Williams

Chair
Alternate Chair/New Westminster Chamber of
Commerce Representative
Tourism New West Representative
Sectoral Representative from Local Business
Community
Sectoral Representative from Local Business
Community
Sectoral Representative from Local Business
Community
Arts New West Representative
Sectoral Representative from Commercial Area
Home-based Business Representative
Downtown BIA Representative
Massey Theatre Representative
Uptown BIA Representative
Sectoral Representative from Local Business
Community
Sectoral Representative from Local Business
Community

REGRETS

Councillor Paul Minhas
Stijn Daenens

Council Representative
Sectoral Representative from Local Business

STAFF PRESENT

Blair Fryer

Senior Manager, Communications and Economic
Development

Vali Marling

General Manager, Anvil Centre

Rob McCullough
Jen Arbo
Gordon Duggan
Carolyn Armanini
Carilyn Cook

Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Lead Economic Development Coordinator
Executive Director, New Media Gallery
Senior Planner, Economic Development
Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Campbell opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

Procedural note: Item 5.1 – Orientation and Affirmations of Office and Item 5.2 – Election of Alternate Chair were addressed first on the agenda. The minutes are recorded in chronological order.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves and shared what they are hoping to contribute and get out of the Arts, Culture and Development Advisory Committee, including:

- Find ways to collaborate and support the community in the best interest of the City;
- Encourage people to open businesses in New Westminster;
- Working together to navigate these challenging times;
- To learn and absorb the knowledge and experience in the room;
- Help each other build capacity;
- To learn about activities in the City and connect to the college and students and programs;
- Learn from the unique perspectives of Committee members;
- Determine how to continue supporting small businesses in New Westminster, including through the challenging period of high interest rates;
- To bring in the voice and perspective of e-commerce and learn more about City initiatives;
- Would like to see us become more galvanized as a group, understand the community better, and come up with a shared or intersecting vision;

- To ensure that everyone is thinking about artists because art brings visitors to the City which facilitates growth and makes it more interesting; and
- Hope to address the lack of art studio space.

Councillor Campbell advised that the Committee should strive to hear from all voices equally and asked that everyone be open change, which is not necessarily a bad thing. She shared that Committee members could connect between meetings on walking tours, a visit to the New Media Gallery, or another social outing. She asked members to let Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, know when and where they would like to meet up.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT New Business Item 8.1 – Indigenous and Heavy Industrial Sector Representatives be added to the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Orientation and Affirmation of Office

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, commenced with her presentation which included the role of advisory committees, the terms of reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies and freedom of information, and, lastly, affirmations of office.

5.2 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Angie Whitfield serve as the Alternate Chair for the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee for the 2023 committee term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. WORK PLAN REVIEW

6.1 2024 Workplan Memo

6.2 2024 Workplan Presentation

Blair Fryer, Senior Manager, Communications and Economic Development, shared a PowerPoint presentation during which he, Gordon Duggan, Executive Director, New Media Gallery, Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, and Vali Marling, General Manager, Anvil Centre, outlined the Committee's proposed 2024 Workplan. Discussion ensued on the following topics:

2024 Economic Development Summary and Projects

A Committee member advised that there needs to be an advocacy role in the City for grants and partnerships with a lens on cultural and social impact.

In response, Councillor Campbell, Mr. Fryer, and Jen Arbo, Lead Economic Development Coordinator, advised:

- The structure of the grants committees has evolved over the years and the City is open to change. If something is not working, let us know as there will be opportunities for those discussions; however, it may not be in this forum;
- Council has approved a new department, Community Services, which will take several offices and bring them under one new umbrella;
- A role of community partnerships has been identified to work with nonprofits and the business community in order to ensure there are no gaps – grants will land in there;
- Approval of the new department has not been more actively shared as the budget for it has not yet been approved; and
- A report will be going to Council soon outlining the path forward for the Community Services Department.

2024 Community Arts and Theatre Summary and Projects

Councillor Campbell advised that the Work Plan Memo, which was included in the Agenda Package, shares a more detailed breakdown of the arts and theatre work plan. She shared that the City's Arts Strategy ends in 2024 with the new one starting in 2025, that the Economic Development Strategy ended in 2023, and that the intersection of both those portfolios in this Committee will provide a lot of exciting opportunities.

2024 Arts and Technology Summary and Projects

It was noted that ongoing communication between Tourism New West and the New Media Gallery could inform Tourism New West's event calendar.

Councillor Campbell acknowledged that people from all over the world visit the New Media Gallery.

2024 Museum and Heritage Summary and Projects

In response to a question from the Committee, Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services advised that Heritage Services works in conjunction with Climate Action, Planning and Development (CAPD) on the Community Heritage Commission (CHC) with respect to heritage properties and homes in the City for which the CHC sends recommendations to Council. He noted that a lot of the things that are the city archives and information held in the records can help to inform some of the work of the CAPD.

Mr. Fryer encouraged Committee members to follow the City's social channels and advised them of the Event Calendar that is hosted on the City website and which shares information about various events that happen around the City. He advised that organizations can have their events added to the Calendar by submitting the Event Submission Form on the webpage.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following comments:

- The City should promote programs and events more in New Westminster social media groups and not only on the City website. It is often seen in these groups that residents want to know more about heritage houses and newcomers may not know a lot about the history of the City;
- Promotion is a huge challenge on a community level and many of local social media accounts are administered by residents; and
- To facilitate engagement, it would be beneficial have plaques at the City's various heritage sites that share the history of the location, even if it is not good history.

Gerardo Corro Amador, Tourism New West Representative, announced that Committee members could also share their upcoming events through the Tourism New West website by visiting their event page.

Conference and Events Services Summary and Projects

No discussion ensued.

At this point in the meeting, Committee members were posed the following questions:

1. Does the information presented today help you to understand how and where you will be providing advice, input, and support to the City via the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee (ACEDAC)?
2. Does this workplan align with the ACEDAC's expectations and aspirations?
3. Are there additional items you feel the Committee should consider for this year?

Catherine Williams left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Campbell and Gordon Duggan, Executive Director, New Media Gallery, provided the following responses:

- Housing insecurity is imbedded in Council's strategic priorities which informs all of the decisions that are made;
- New Westminster is now the second densest city in Canada and with the new zoning laws we will likely be the densest city very soon. The implication of that could be addresses though this committee; and
- Workshops or presentations could provide information to the Committee with respect to the upcoming new Provincial Housing Regulations.

As there were no further comments, Councillor Campbell asked Committee members to forward additional feedback they may have to Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, after the meeting.

7. MEMBER UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Indigenous & Heavy Industrial Sector Representative

Councillor Campbell noted that there were still two vacant positions on the Committee including one for an Indigenous Representative and the other for the other for an Education, Health Care, Manufacturing, Non-Profit, Retail,

Technology, Planning and Public Realm, and Art and Creative Professional Representative, specifically for heavy industrial; however, staff may have found someone for the second vacancy.

Councillor Campbell encouraged Committee members to regularly view Council meeting agendas as there were often items related to business that may be of interest to them.

9. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 11:35 a.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 11, 2024
June 20, 2024
August 8, 2024
October 10, 2024
December 12, 2024

Certified correct,

Councillor Ruby Campbell

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk