

**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION FACILITIES
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022**

Committee Members: E. McHarg (Acting Chair), J. Berg, G. Nicholls, J. Roote, J. Sidhu, and J. Webbe; and Councillors C. Cameron (Chair), N. Gambioli, and S. Thompson attended the meeting via electronic communication facilities. Absent: L. Carver.

Staff: D. Powers, Director of Community Relations & Communications; A. Mafi, Communications & Engagement Manager (Staff Liaison); K. Andrzejczuk, Communications & Engagement Coordinator (Committee Clerk); D. Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services; and C. Rosta, Cultural Services Manager attended the meeting via electronic communication facilities.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the May 17, 2022 Community Engagement Committee meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Councillor Thompson absent at the vote

REPORTS / ITEMS

3. Arts and Culture Engagement

D. Powers (Director, Community Relations & Communications) spoke relative to the document regarding “Communications & Engagement Overview: Arts Planning: Visioning” and informed that:

- The Arts Facilities Advisory Committee has been tasked by Council to confirm the vision and concept for an arts and culture facility by engaging with the arts and culture community, community user groups, and the public;
- This engagement is an opportunity to re-think the concept and vision for an arts and culture centre, as new needs may have emerged following the pandemic, and it follows the inconclusive 2021 engagement on an arts and culture centre site selection which raised concerns in the community;
- This engagement will take a step back to first confirm the vision and concept;
- The Arts Facilities Advisory Committee has also been tasked with recommending a framework for capital fundraising and a governance model for an arts and culture facility; the vision and concept will inform the development of a framework for capital fundraising and a governance model; and

- The Community Engagement Committee is asked to provide feedback on the engagement tactics and timeline for confirming the vision and concept.

Councillor Cameron (Chair) informed that the role of the Community Engagement Committee is to provide non-partisan advice to the District regarding communication and engagement with residents; and the committee does not make recommendations regarding the content of proposals.

D. Powers spoke relative to the document regarding “Communications & Engagement Overview: Arts Planning: Visioning” and informed that this engagement will involve three phases:

- Phase one (workshops): Four interactive workshops (two in-person and two virtual) will be held in June 2022; two of the workshops will be for arts groups and facility users and two of the workshops will be for arts program participants and the general public; all workshops will be facilitated by a contractor, Urban Arts, which has worked with the District on previous projects; additional workshops will be added if they fill up;
- Phase two (survey): An online survey will be available during summer 2022 on westvancouverITE and at pop-up booths at the Harmony Arts Festival; and
- Phase three (touch base): Another round of workshops will be held in September 2022 to regroup with the public and stakeholders to report back on what was heard at the workshops.

Councillor Thompson entered the meeting at 3:30 p.m. via electronic communications facilities.

Discussion ensued and the Community Engagement Committee provided the following feedback:

- It is important to establish the problem we are trying to solve; explain the limitations of existing facilities and work that has already been done;
- Develop an educational video, such as a virtual tour of the Silk Purse and Music Box;
- Consider holding workshops in an arts facility; D. Powers informed that the arts facilities are not being used because they are too small;
- In the survey, ask “What have people learned from the pandemic?”;
- Post signage advertising the engagement in Ambleside Park;
- An important key message is that an arts facility has the potential to accommodate a broad range of uses, such as other community groups;
- A risk is lack of trust; be very clear that a decision has not been made;
- It is best to avoid a survey during the summer; consider launching the survey in September;
- It is important to acknowledge the past work; consider a video to explain the background;
- Include workshops during the morning and afternoon;

- When using Miro in the virtual workshops, allow time for participants to learn how to use it;
- Consider inclusivity; ensure technology is accessible and facilitate diversity in participation;
- A risk is the perception that we are doing more consultation without conclusion; be very clear regarding objectives of the engagement and what we are trying to capture;
- Be as definitive as possible regarding location, governance, and funding to manage questions;
- A risk is that people may be tired of participating; make information as simple as possible; and
- Inform that the consultation is being funded COVID-19 recovery funds.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the presentation regarding Arts and Culture Engagement be received for information.

CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public commented regarding and the arts and culture engagement and suggested including comparisons to arts facilities located in other municipalities.

A member of the public commented regarding the Arts Facilities Advisory Committee; the arts and culture engagement; collecting feedback from West Vancouver residents only; Council direction regarding the arts facility; and requested that the District provide information regarding arts facility operation costs.

J. Webb (member of the public) commented regarding the arts and culture engagement and suggested that it is important to communicate Council direction and how the need for an arts facility was determined.

C. Reynolds (member of the public) thanked the committee for their feedback and offered to include District information in her publication, West Van Matters.

NEXT MEETING

5. NEXT MEETING

Staff confirmed that the next Community Engagement Committee meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

6. ADJOURNMENT


It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the May 17, 2022 Community Engagement Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Committee Clerk