



Welcoming City Task Force Agenda
Monday January 25, 2021 5pm – 6:30pm on MS Teams

Meeting Chair: Councillor Dubow

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
2. Update on consultant recruitment
 - RFO time has closed and we received 3 proposals. Staff will now review and evaluate, and hopefully be able to make an offer to one of the companies.
3. Update on VicPD and DVBA membership on the Task Force
 - Both organizations have indicated they will provide a representative to the Task Force. Once they have done this, a short report will go to Council to approve the nominations.
4. Discussion “In what ways *is* Victoria welcoming?” (discussion notes on page 3)
5. Given the notes from last week and the answers to question #4 today, what is emerging as key areas for our Welcoming City Strategy to focus on?
 - The Task Force began this conversation (discussion notes on p 4) and will continue it after people have time to reflect on the two discussions of how Victoria is welcoming and not welcoming
6. Next steps and meeting dates for February
 - Feb 8 and 22, 5pm start time. Kimberley will set up and send out meeting invitations

Attendance recorded (page 2)

Other City staff and Council present at the meeting:

1. Mayor Lisa Helps
2. Kimberley Stratford, City staff

Attendees v

Members	Organization	Jan 25
Antonia Paquin	Member at Large	
Daniela dos Santos Pinto	Member at Large	regrets
Jibril Mohamed	Member at Large	
Silvia Mangue Alene	Member at Large	v
Agnes Myhre	Bayanihan Community Centre	v
David Lau	Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society	
Florentien Verhage	Intercultural Association	v
Nora Butz	Chinese Community Services Society	
Jefus Godwin-Enwere	International student	v
Maureen Sawa	Greater Victoria Public Library	v
Sandra Hough	George Jay School PAC	v
Tracy Ryan	Victoria Silver Threads	v
Garry Sam	Songhees Nation	v
Jerome Thomas	Esquimalt Nation	v
Annie Djiotso	Société Francophone	v
Kareece Whittle-Brown	Here in Canada magazine	v

Discussion: How is Victoria Welcoming?

- Someone arrived and immediately connected to the sports community. These connections made it easier to create community, real friendships, jobs etc
- Library has received lots of positive feedback as there is access to materials and resources / welcome signage in multiple language. Have added greeting staff at the door
- Military resource guide is published to help those being posted here feel welcome (*Annie asked to send link*)
- It's a lot easier to feel connected once you get introduced into a community (school, faith community, recreation groups)
- Pre-Covid – people appreciate the number of City planned outdoor events throughout the year. Parks and Crystal pool are great places to meet and play
- Coming to an established community – people make a big effort to be welcome
- People are a big part of the welcome here.
- Need to leverage stakeholders – places of work, faith community etc to support the work of the City
- George Jay has English programs for parents – need more for the kids. George Jay used to have a Welcome Room as well which was very helpful
- Mentor program – matching (host program) immigrants with host families
- The network of Not for Profits in Victoria is quite strong. When you can find the right NFP connection, this can help immensely, and they all play a role in welcoming people
- It's important that the cultural NFP organizations are adequately funded so they can do the work of welcoming and helping immigrants to settle in the city
- There are groups advocating for our First Nations, and there is appreciation for the work being done between the City and our local First Nations, the land acknowledgement is nice, work on reconciliation.
- Optically the local indigenous art is good and a great way to share the First Nations stories. Lekwungen art in public spaces / on their homelands is a really important way that Victoria can be welcoming and undertake acts of reconciliation at the same time.
- The city is well maintained physically to protect the natural beauty
- Multicultural events are a great way to be introduced to other cultures, share their food and traditions.
- Does the airport have a warm and welcoming message? Very important to set the tone
- Translators help a lot but limited to certain languages and financial resources. Need digital translation technology to assist teachers, children and parents to support language barriers
- Non-white history, like at the Chinese Cemetery, is also important. Books such as "Island Kids" or "Victoria in Colour" tell diverse history of this place. Need to pay more attention to our diverse history in public spaces

What is emerging as key areas for our Welcoming City Strategy to focus on?

Importance of public gathering spaces, the notion of a community living room., e.g. space outside the Central library could be programmed for more intentional activities (e.g. NYC has outdoor chess tables). We need to make better use of our outdoor spaces and provide spaces with consideration for climate

The common denominator that makes Victoria an unwelcoming city is the racism and discrimination present. The City needs a robust anti-racist, anti-discrimination strategy – City Hall can set the tone. The strategy needs to include a common baseline in sensitivity, language – shared resources for training