



Welcoming Cities Task Force Meeting Notes
Monday November 30, 5pm – 6:30pm on MS Teams

Meeting chaired by Councillor Sharmarke Dubow

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement from Councillor Dubow
2. Welcoming International presentation – Presenter unable to join the meeting.
Councillor Dubow reviewed the key initiatives from the [City's Strategic Plan](#) (*Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City* Objective 5, p 31) sharing action items to be taken, and quick updates on actions where taken:
 1. Join Welcoming Cities initiatives
 - **Update:** Victoria is not able to join as Canada has no national umbrella organization with Welcoming Cities International, however we are able to work with and will use them as a resource for our work
 2. Community efforts that promote inclusivity, understanding and collaboration across cultures to learn about and appreciate everyone's unique perspective
 - **Update:** Formation of Welcoming Cities Task Force with diversity of participants
 3. The City will not use funds, personnel or equipment to detain people due to immigration status
 - **Update:** An invitation to VicPD to join Task Force is being sent, and working with same to build safer community, so immigrants can call 911 without fear of deportation if undocumented
 4. Business leaders, civic groups institutions, residents to join in a city-wide effort to expand prosperity and integration to include all residents
 - **Update:** An invitation to the Downtown Victoria Business Association to join the Task Force is being sent
 5. Ensure a welcoming, compassionate and neighbourly atmosphere in our community where all people, including immigrants and refugees are welcomed, accepted, respected and encouraged to participate
 6. City plays role in collective response to fear mongering, racism and human suffering
 7. Diversity and inclusion training for staff and Council
 - **Update:** Training plans are being developed
 8. Support entrepreneurial ambitions of newcomers through the Business Hub at City Hall
3. Overview of [Victoria 3.0](#), the City's economic action plan (Mayor Helps)

4. Discussion regarding the hiring of the consulting team that will work with the Task Force to write our Welcoming Cities plan
 - Contributions of experience and values were gathered from the Task Force which will be included in the RFO
 - **Action:** Kimberley is drafting the Request for Offer (RFO) which will be ready to send out in early January. We ambitiously intend to have the consultant/team on board at the beginning of February.

5. Dates for 2021
 - **Decision:** January 11, 2021, 5pm was the date set for the next meeting. At this meeting we will decide the meeting dates for 2021

6. Terms of Reference
 - **Decision:** The new deliverable dates are
 1. June 30, 2021 for the report to be completed
 2. July, 2021 for presentation to Council
 - **Action:** Kimberley will update the ToR dates on the website

Attendance recorded (page 3)

Other City staff and Council present at the meeting:

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

Attendees v

Members	Organization	Nov 30
Antonia Paquin	Member at Large	
Daniela dos Santos Pinto	Member at Large	v
Jibril Mohamed	Member at Large	
Silvia Mangué Alene	Member at Large	v
Agnes Myhre	Bayanihan Community Centre	v
David Lau	Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society	v
Florentien Verhage	Intercultural Assn	v
Nora Butz	Chinese Community Services Society	v
Jefus Godwin-Enwere	Here Magazine	v
Maureen Sawa	Greater Victoria Public Library	v
Sandra Hough	George Jay School PAC	v
Tracy Ryan	Silver Threads	Sent regrets
Garry Sam	Songhees Nation	
Jerome Thomas	Esquimalt Nation	v
Annie Djioṣta	Societe Francophone	v