



## MINUTES - WELCOMING CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 6, 2026, 5:07 P.M.

XWSEPSUM NATION ROOM, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nations.

Meeting conducted electronically via Teams

### PRESENT

ELECTRONICALLY: Daniela dos Santos Pinto in the Chair, Nora Butz, Maureen Sawa, Florentien Verhage, Jibril Mohamed (joined at 5:27 p.m.), Sandra Hough (joined at 5:33 p.m.)

ABSENT: Nasim Hamed, Tita Dominga

STAFF PRESENT: A. Galiev – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, M. Moore – Lived Experience Consultant, A. Klus – Legislative Coordinator

GUEST: Zara Chaudhry - Coastal Research, Education, and Advocacy Network

### **A. Welcoming and Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities, where the Committee lives and learns.

### **B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Moved and Seconded:

That the minutes from the Welcoming City Advisory Committee held November 4, 2025 be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**D.1 Zara Chaudhry (CREAN) – 2026 Welcoming City Conference**

Committee received a presentation from the Coastal Research, Education, and Advocacy Network (CREAN) on recent initiatives and the upcoming 2026 Welcoming City Conference.

Jibril Mohamed joined the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Sandra Hough joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Committee discussed the following:

- Welcoming Cities Community Conversation Series, including event debriefs
- Opportunities for the City of Victoria
- Spoke to the necessity of more in-person ways to connect
- Reviewed feedback from previous 2025 Conference and discussed lessons learned going forward
- Logistics, resources, and themes for the 2026 Conference (April 2026)

Florentien Verhage left the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

**E. Community Round Table**

- It was noted that before leaving, Florentine shared an upcoming event on the intersection between housing and health, with a focus on helping community organizations and leaders understand the role they can play in welcoming newcomers February 27, 1-4 pm Esquimalt Gorge Pavillion.
- Nora shared a children's book that describes Daoism and significance of the Tam Kung Temple.
- Daniela shared two upcoming events: Latin Fest at Centennial Square and an International Women's Day event at Belfry theatre, March 7.

**F. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – March 3, 2026**

This item was not discussed.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.