

**MINUTES OF THE
RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017 AT 4:30 PM
AT TSESHAHT FIRST NATION**

Committee: Wally J Samuel, Cynthia Dick, Ian Benoit, Jim Tatoosh, Brandy Lauder, Sharie Minions and Sheena Falconer

Regrets: Ann Robinson

City Staff: Timothy Pley, CAO
Davina Hartwell, City Clerk

Facilitator: John Rampanen

Cynthia Dick provided a welcome on behalf of the Tseshaht First Nation on whose territory the meeting was held and offered food to those in attendance.

Some initial discussion was held regarding the structure of the Committee and the role of the co-chairs including creation of agendas.

1. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded:

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes

It was moved and seconded:

That the minutes be adopted as amended to reflect the correct adjournment time of 6:07 p.m.

CARRIED

3. John Rampanen, Facilitator

John facilitated discussion amongst the committee members. Comments made included:

- governance structures between the parties are all different with different terms of office
- the Committee needs to be strong enough to withstand the transition in governments
- emphasis on increasing cultural awareness among leadership and staff – longevity

- Cowichan Valley has a good model that might address issues of sustainability
- Potential of inviting local elders to be at the table moving forward to give more of a unique perspective
- What do we want to see the Alberni Valley look like?
- Every First Nation has different priorities and perspectives, needs and visions – urban displacement, reserve system, marginalization, misconceptions on behalf on non-native
- Different ways of reconciling First Nations in the community; work together to make sure everyone is included
- Many urban First Nations live in the City – unable to access services
- Important to see local elected officials breaking bread at First Nations gatherings
- Racism still prevalent in community
- Need to return to our values of taking care of each other; find ways to make good, strong decisions not just for today but for tomorrow
- How do we get more information and understanding out to the community? The blanket exercise is a great exercise but it is not reaching the people we want to reach – people participating are those who already have an understanding
- How do we educate? Educating kids is our first best hope to see true reconciliation

John advised that prior to the next meeting he will provide copies of the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action and the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples as reference material for review and discussion.

3. Next Meeting

The Committee agreed by consensus to hold meetings every second Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at rotating locations. Meetings to be a maximum of two hours. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 10, 2017 at 4:30 pm** at the Hupacasath First Nation offices.

4. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting adjourn at 6:36 pm

CARRIED


Sharie Minions, Chair


Davina Hartwell, City Clerk


Cynthia Dick, Chair