



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: June 2, 2021
Submitted by: Heritage Commission
Subject: Komagata Maru Storyboard

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding a resolution passed by the Heritage Commission requesting support for a storyboard to commemorate the Komagata Maru incident.

Recommended Resolution

THAT the report dated June 2, 2021 from the Heritage Commission regarding Komagata Maru Storyboard be received for information.

Background

At the May 13, 2021 Heritage Commission meeting, the Commission received a delegation from the Komagata Maru Society regarding the Komagata Maru incident, which took place in 1914. The Committee passed the following resolution:

HC021/010

THAT a storyboard concept be explored with the Komagata Maru Society to commemorate the incident;

AND THAT the Heritage Commission be directed to work with the Komagata Maru Society to draft the storyboard content and to facilitate outreach with potential partners.

Discussion

The Komagata Maru Society, represented by Mr. Raj Singh Toor, gave a presentation to the Commission, noting that the Canadian government had denied the passengers of the Komagata Maru entry into Canada after it arrived in Vancouver on May 23, 1914, and had provided no food, water, nor medication to the 376 passengers onboard. Mr. Toor noted that the ship was forcefully sent back to British-ruled India, where British troops open fired on the passengers upon arrival, killing around 20 passengers and injuring and imprisoning many more.

Mr. Toor noted that both the federal and the BC provincial governments have formally apologized for the incident, and that the city councils of Vancouver, New Westminster, and Delta have also acted to commemorate the incident. Mr. Toor noted that Port Moody has a direct connection to the incident as many of the passengers were workers in the local lumber

mills, and requested action from the City to commemorate the incident. Mr. Toor suggested the renaming of a park or a street, or installation a storyboard, as potential actions.

In discussion, the Commission expressed support for the Society's campaign and for the storyboard concept. The Commission suggested that the City could partner with the Society to create an impactful storyboard that highlights the City's direct connection to the incident, including information from the sawmills.

Other Options

1. THAT the report dated June 2, 2021 from the Heritage Commission regarding Komagata Maru Storyboard be referred to staff for information.
2. THAT the report dated June 2, 2021 from the Heritage Commission regarding Komagata Maru Storyboard be referred to staff for action.

Financial Implications

Further information on financial implications would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

Further information on communication and civic engagement requirements would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Supporting the Komagata Maru Storyboard aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan Objective of bringing people together by activating public spaces.

Report Author

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Committee Coordinator

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Komagata Maru Storyboard.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 10, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Takahashi, Deputy Corporate Officer - Jun 4, 2021 - 4:58 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jun 7, 2021 - 11:21 AM

Natasha Vander Wal for Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jun 10, 2021 - 9:41 AM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jun 10, 2021 - 10:17 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jun 10, 2021 - 2:05 PM