

BCLA Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee *MINUTES*

November 19, 2015 Burnaby Public Library: Tommy Douglas Branch

Present: Ravi Basi, , Allan Cho, Wendy Jang, Michael McCarthy, Roberta Summersgill, Eva Quintana, Fereshteh Kashefi (Chair)

Regrets: Michael Burris

Highlights of the meeting

Meeting Opening

Welcome and introductions, adoption of the previous minutes and agenda.

Membership

Fereshteh distributed the updated membership list. We have not heard from a few new members for a while this report is being emailed to everyone on the list and we hope to hear from them.

Susan Pierce from Vancouver Island Regional Library would like to join the meetings via phone or other available technologies. We will look into technical solutions to make it possible for her join meetings in 2017. Roberta will check with Metrotown branch to see if conference call is possible there and how.

We need to work on ways to diversify and reach out to new members. Allan volunteered to work on a document/invitation to be shared with committee and when finalized posted through bcla listserve. Wendy and Ravi suggested that in or in addition to our invitation we need to ask interested individuals what their expectations are from the committee. A short questionnaire will be added to our invitation.

Web site Maintenance

We have not received new instructions from BCLA, about the new website and possible maintenance training. Michael McCarthy who takes care of our blog and website will contact BCLA office to enquire about this. Use of social media, specially FaceBook to promote the committee and sharing ideas and news was discussed Michael will also ask what BCLA's policy and regulations are for use of social media. If approved Eva volunteered to create a Facebook account.

BCLA conference 2016

The committee continued discussion about possible participation in 2016 conference. BC Library Conference Call for Proposals was reviewed the theme is "Disrupt and Transform". The consensus was that we won't have enough time to meet the deadline for proposal submission this year.

Syrian Refugees

There has been several information sessions organized by various settlement agencies like Mosaic and AMSSA around lower mainland and in November there is a joint information session organized by NSIIP and West Vancouver United Church for North Shore residents, with a focus on private sponsorship.

NewToBC is organizing a similar session for library staff on refugee situation and the role libraries can play to help. (Shared by Ravi)

Round table:

Wendy informed that a new component (Chinese immigration experience in BC) has been added to the curriculum for grades 5 and 11. North Van city library has organized two programs in October and November around Human Rights History and current issues, one focussed on women's rights and culture (Fereshteh). SPL has a new intake of Library Champions. (Ravi)

Meeting dates in 2017

4 meetings on the following dates:

Thursdays : February 25, May 26, September 22, December 8.

Location: BPL, Metrotown Branch.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30