



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
April 1st, 2019

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Committee</u> Andrew Yu, Chair Arul Rajasingam Edward Choi Faiz Mohyuddin Harmony Law Maggie Quirt Nayani Nandakumar <u>Staff</u> Anna Lee, <i>Committee Co-ordinator</i>	 <u>Regrets</u> Devendra Mishra Herleen Sayal Sujane Kandasamy Rina George-Alexander Sabat Ismail Surinder Razdan Joe Li, <i>Regional Councillor</i> <u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, <i>Diversity Specialist</i>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:05PM without quorum and with Andrew Yu presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

- We may have a Markham City Corporate Communications Staff member joining our May meeting for brainstorming on ideas and events. We can take what they can provide as support into consideration when we are thinking of ideas and events.
- **New RRC Councillors**
Markham City is revamping some of the committees and they will be appointing councillors to the committees after the revamp. This could delay the appointment of City Councillors until September. We are receiving support from the Markham City Staff even though we don't officially have appointed Committee Councillors.

2. Race Relations Business

- **Many Faces of Markham, Saturday 27 April 2019: "EVERYONE WELCOME: Empowering Markham students as emerging champions in Equity"**
 - Judging of entries was held on Sunday, March 31st, 2019. Entries were diverse in all categories (art, writing and video submissions) and there were submissions from private

and public schools. We did not hold performance auditions as the submissions were accepted as is and there are enough time slots to have everyone perform.

- Curriculums are prepared before the school year and therefore the packages sent out need to contain information on how teachers can connect the curriculum with submissions.
- Volunteer orientation for the event is being held on Sunday, April 14th, 2019 in the York room from 2PM-5PM. We are using the Markham City database to reach out to volunteers for the event; City Staff will also be assisting in the process and the event. Please attend the event, even if you cannot attend the volunteer orientation session as committee member volunteers are needed during the actual event. The subcommittee members will be occupied on stage, all day, so we would like to have all the committee members present for assistance. If you would like to be a volunteer coordinator, you will have to attend the volunteer orientation session.
- The City of Markham is holding the Alex Chiu Pool Dedication ceremony on the same day as Many Faces of Markham from 2:15PM-4PM. The Mayor and Members of Council will be in attendance for the Alex Chiu Pool Dedication, causing schedule conflict with Many Faces of Markham. We will have a City Council Member at our event at all times as the Councillors will attend at different times.

- **Community Virtual Feedback Session: International Day for Elimination of Racism, Thursday 21 March 2019**

- Andrew Yu and Maggie Quirt will hold a feedback session subcommittee for the social media engagement event. We would like to express our thanks to City Staff for assisting us in receiving a \$500 budget to promote the social media engagement posts. This will help us in increasing visibility on social media as organic reach tends to be low and paying for posts to be pushed out will increase visibility.
- We will be posting on Facebook and Instagram, but not Twitter as it is not an ideal forum for our purposes. Facebook and Instagram also have wider demographic reach and engagement from all generations. We will have data on how many people the posts reached and reactions we received on both Facebook and Instagram. We did not print in newspapers (Markham Economist and Sun). The staff received positive comments and feedback from the posts and this experience helps us learn ways to make this better next time.

- **Bystander Intervention**

- Andrew Yu discussed this topic with Cheryl McConney-Wilson, *Diversity Specialist*. Cheryl will be researching this subject as a level of liability and professionalism is required, since it is a sensitive topic. Cheryl, as a City of Markham staff can begin the initial research and package.

- **Deferred Business**

- National Indigenous Peoples Day, Friday, June 21st, 2019
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day, Thursday, June 27, 2019
- Everyone Welcome rally @ City Hall lawn, Sunday, July 28, 2019
- Bystander intervention/Responding to alt-right

3. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Ontario Room.

4. Adjournment

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:40PM.