



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
February 4th, 2019

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Committee</u> Andrew Yu, Chair Arul Rajasingam Edward Choi Harmony Law Maggie Quirt Nayani Nandakumar Rina George-Alexander Sabat Ismail Surinder Razdan <u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, <i>Diversity Specialist</i> Anna Lee, Committee Co-ordinator	<u>Regrets</u> Devendra Mishra Faiz Mohyuddin Herleen Sayal Sujane Kandasamy Regional Councillor Joe Li
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:04 PM with Andrew Yu presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Andrew Yu welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the City of Markham's Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

• **Huawei Situation**

- Huawei Canada headquarters is located in Markham. The current situation will certainly impact Markham more than the rest of Canada. A discussion about issues of allegiance and patriotism in our multicultural city and country might be needed in the future, as Canada recognizes the freedom to choose what to believe.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

Moved by Surinder Razdan

Seconded by Arul Rajasingam

Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Surinder Razdan

Seconded by Rina George-Alexander

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meetings held on January 14, 2019, be adopted.

Carried

4. Markham Human Resources Update

- **Terms of Reference**

- Terms of Reference amendments was sent to the clerks, and they were accepted by the clerks. The staff will finish a final draft and send it to the Race Relations committee. Andrew will follow up with staff the week before the next meeting to ensure the committee has enough time to review the draft. The RRC will review and vote on the final draft during the March 4th, 2019 meeting. Andrew will meet with the new Councillor members as soon as they are appointed so they can see the final draft for review and approval. The newly appointed committee Councillors (to be appointed) will review and present to City Council for final approval. RRC is looking to push forward in this progress to have it approved by City Council. Until the new Terms of Reference has been approved and adopted by City Council, the committee is operating under the old Terms of Reference. Andrew will let the RRC know of any updates.

- **New RRC Councillors**

- We are waiting for the new City Council to appoint and announce the new committee Councillors. We have recommended/requested councillors that could be a good fit for our committee. There is a requirement for one of the two new committee councillors to be the City's CMARD (Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination) representative. The intention of the requirement is to have the CMARD representative also sitting on the RRC.

5. Race Relations Business

- **Many Faces of Markham, Saturday, April 27th, 2019: "EVERYONE WELCOME: Empowering Markham students as emerging champions in Equity"**

- Rina gave an update on the Many Faces of Markham event. We received a first-time inquiry of whether performances could be submitted for the event – we said yes and gave a cut off date. We are still looking for a restaurant to provide the pizza for the charity lunch supporting Yellow Brick House. The poster advertisement was shown to the RRC. The website is being revamped and will be back up once all the updates have been made.

- **Black History Month Community Event**

- We are having difficulties in finding a speaker for the event – having a stipend for a speaker will help to find a speaker. The committee moved and approved using up to \$200 as an honorarium from the City of Markham to pay for a speaker at the event. Andrew will contact City staff about the process of receiving the honorarium, as this is usually a committee Councillor responsibility. This will be a 4-person panel discussion that delves deeper into topics than other Black History Month events being held in the community. The Markham Public Library will be supporting us and promoting the event once we our event has been firmed up and we have the materials from corporate

communications. The event will be held at the Aaniin or Markham Village Community Centre – to be confirmed.

- **Approval of using up to \$200 as honorarium from the City of Markham**

Moved by Maggie Quirt
Seconded by Edward Choi

To use up to \$200 as honorarium from the City of Markham to pay for a Speaker at the Black History Month Community Event.

Carried

- On February 25th, 2019, the Markham Public Library will be holding a screening of the short National Film Board of Canada documentary “Journey to Justice” After the film, a discussion framed by the film will be held and facilitated by the RRC. Josie is facilitating as the past Chair of RRC and Andrew will be assisting with the Q&A of the discussion.

- **International Day for Elimination of Racism, Thursday, March 21st, 2019**
2019 Theme: Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies

- In conjunction with the International Day for Elimination of Racism, a contest through social media, like Instagram, with the use of hashtags, would be a good way to promote and garner interest and discussion for the International Day for Elimination of Racism. The contest can ask people for ideas on how we can eliminate racism. RRC will solidify plans on how to reach the community at large and how online vs. offline the contest should be so that it is inclusive for anyone that would like to participate.

Markham Inclusion Charter

- The Markham Inclusion Charter is binding for Markham Council and Staff and encouraged for the Community to also follow. The Inclusion Charter is more general and rhetorical and not a practical guide. Markham Inclusion Charter can be promoted in conjunction with Canadian Multiculturalism Day.

Bystander Intervention

- RRC members to share any materials or programs on bystander intervention that have practical ideas and guidelines that can be reviewed by the committee. The goal would be to have this information accessible to everyone in our community.

- **Deferred Business**

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

6. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Ontario Room.

7. Adjournment

Moved by Rina George-Alexander

Seconded by Edward Choi

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Carried