



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
January 14th, 2019

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Committee</u> Andrew Yu, Chair Arul Rajasingam Edward Choi Harmony Law Sabat Ismail Surinder Razdan Regional Councillor Joe Li <u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, <i>Diversity Specialist</i> Anna Lee, Committee Co-ordinator	<u>Regrets</u> Devendra Mishra Herleen Sayal Sujane Kandasamy Maggie Quirt Nayani Nandakumar Rina George-Alexander Faiz Mohyuddin
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:10 PM with Andrew Yu presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Andrew Yu welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- **City of Markham Board/Committee Information Night** on Thursday, January 31 from 7PM to 9PM at Markham Civic Centre in the Great Hall & Canada Room. This is open to the public to learn about the Markham Committees and the application process.
- **York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (YRAACC)** is holding their 2nd Annual Black History celebration event at Thornlea Secondary School on Saturday, February 16th, 2019 from 11AM to 2PM. This year's theme is "Celebrating the Success of Our Black Families in YR". Andrew can send more information to those that are interested in the event.
- **The Police Community Advisory Council** are holding a contest for high school students in grades 9 to 12 to submit an original poster that promotes unity, diversity, inclusion, equity, hate crime prevention and human rights. All entries are due by Thursday, March 22, 2019 at 4PM and one winning entry from each grade will receive a \$250 cash prize and will be recognised at the Social Justice in York Region Conference on May 2, 2019. Andrew can send more information to those that are interested in the event.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

Moved by Arul Rajasingam
Seconded by Surinder Razdan

Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Harmony Law
Seconded by Sabat Ismail

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meetings held on December 3, 2018, be adopted.

Carried

4. Markham Human Resources Update

- **Terms of Reference**

- The Terms of Reference amendments made by the RRC have been accepted by the clerks. The Committee Councillors (who will be appointed) will review and approve the Terms of Reference and present it to the General Council for final approval. The RRC Terms of Reference is not in the Council Agenda for January. Andrew will send Terms of Reference to RRC members so they may review and be prepared to move a motion in the February 4, 2019 meeting.

- **New RRC Councillors in January 2019**

- New RRC councillors will be appointed and announced in January 2019.

5. Race Relations Business

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

- The event will be held during the day and having a food option onsite for lunch will be beneficial for those that do not bring food and/or need to leave for lunch during the event. We would have a pizza business sponsor and donate the pizza and drinks. The plan would be to hold an optional charity fundraiser with a suggested donation amount, which would be non-compulsory. The fundraiser would benefit the Yellow Brick House of York Region. Yellow Brick House representatives will be present at the event to raise awareness of the services they provide and the work they do in York Region with those that want to learn more about the organization.

- **Black History Month**

- Planning a Community discussion panel for Black History Month to discuss the accomplishments of historical Canadian figures and the future of Black History Month. A way to engage the community in the importance and celebration of Black History Month. Event will be held on a Saturday afternoon (potential date: Feb.23rd, 2019) and Sabat Ismail will be looking into potential spaces to hold the event and sending options to Andrew and Laura for availability and booking. The committee will discuss possible speakers they could invite, as well as reaching out to associations or organizations for

representatives at the discussion panel. Once all the details are finalized, the committee will ask the City and Markham Public Library for assistance for materials and promoting the event.

6. Next Meeting Date

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

7. Adjournment

Moved by Arun Rajasingam

Seconded by Edward Choi

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Carried