



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
January 13, 2020

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Committee</u> Andrew Yu, Chair Darius Sookrum Edward Choi Faiz Mohyuddin Hamza Sivanathan Harmony Law Suat Kenar Sujane Kandasamy Councillor Isa Lee <u>Staff</u> Anna Lee, <i>Committee Co-ordinator</i>	<u>Regrets</u> Arul Rajasingam Devendra Mishra Herleen Sayal Mohamad Mtairek Nayani Nandakumar Sabat Ismail Surinder Razdan <u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, <i>Diversity Specialist</i>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:00 PM with Andrew Yu presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Andrew Yu began the meeting by reading the City of Markham Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

No changes or additions.

Moved by Darius Sookrum
Seconded by Faiz Mohyuddin

Carried

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of the Markham Race Relations Committee held on November 4, 2019 and December 2, 2019.

Moved by Faiz Mohyuddin
Seconded by Harmony Law

Carried

4. Markham Human Resources Update

- **Terms of Reference**

- Councillors are currently reviewing the proposed Terms of Reference. Adoption by Council is the last stage and the committee will continue as is until this occurs. Cheryl McConney-Wilson and Andrew Yu have been fielding any questions Councillor may have. The Councillors are also reviewing the committee name and if it needs to be changed to broaden and afford more flexibility of the scope of the committee. The Terms of Reference will be included in a future General Committee Meeting Agenda.

5. Race Relations Business

- **Human Rights Day**

- The event, content and presentation went well. Attendance was lower than expected due to the lack of promotion as there was not enough time to work with Corporate Communications to publicize the event. For 2020, the plan is to have finalized plans by June, work on the event over the summer, and reach out to the school boards in September.
- Going forward, Human Rights Day will be for older students and the wider Markham community while Many Faces of Markham will be focused on kindergarteners and elementary school children.
- For Human Rights Day 2020, in addition to one or two keynote speakers, the plan is to have several NGO's each present a short summary of their ongoing projects and the work they do. As well, they will each have a table to present their materials and promote their cause. As high school students will be present, this is a great opportunity to educate them and gain interest in the younger generations. The flag raising ceremony will be held during the day for City staff and the event with speakers will be held during the evening for better attendance by the community.

- **Many Faces of Markham**

- We will be asking Becky Big Canoe, the presenter and host for Human Rights Day 2019, to partake in Many Faces of Markham 2020 as a storyteller. Bringing an Indigenous element to the event, children can connect with the Indigenous community and learn traditional values through storytelling. The RRC will share the Many Faces of Markham theme with Becky and she can share the best-fitting stories and execute appropriately to follow the direction of the theme.
- The event will be focused and geared towards elementary school children – ages ranging from kindergarten to grade 8.
- We will be looking for an Emcee that is experienced in presenting and working with children to host the event. The City staff are currently reaching out to potential Emcees. This will allow the RRC members to be present and have presence at the RRC table.
- The event will be held on April 19th, 2020. The submissions deadline is March 13th, 2020 and the judging will be on March 15th, 2020. We are currently in the first phase to call for submissions through the various school boards, private schools and parents. We are engaging the school boards early enough to the event timelines and deadlines. The second phase is marketing, promoting and publicizing the event for attendance.
- The York Catholic District School Board has received and approved the package. City staff will be sending the packages to all the schools. The York Region District

- School Board has yet to approve the package. Once it is approved, it will be sent to the schools. Andrew Yu will email the RRC about Many Faces of Markham meetings that occur with City staff during the weekdays.
- The event will be going online on the City's website. The content has been prepared and Corporate Communications is finalizing the format for the website. Once the website goes live, Andrew will send the RRC members the PDF version of the poster. The RRC members are free to share the poster and engage in work of mouth promotions. Andrew will also send the RRC members the package that is sent to school boards.
 - The Council Chambers Great Hall has been secured for the event; however, the City staff is also looking at the Cornell Community Centre Rehearsal Hall for availability. The Rehearsal Hall allows for setup flexibility for presentations and performances, unlike the Great Hall.
 - Press Releases and other official promotional messages will be sent for Many Faces of Markham by Corporate Communications.
 - Human Rights Day and Many Faces of Markham will be the 2 annual events organized by the RRC. RRC can concentrate on these 2 events and do them well, as per the size of the committee. This allows the RRC to have the capacity and flexibility to manage other issues and situations that may arise. We will support, attend and participate in events organized by Markham community groups when invited to do so, to the best of our ability.
 - Going forward, we will have a model and timeline to be able to work with Corporate Communications to promote and publicize our events, such as Human Rights Day and Many Faces of Markham. We need to go through the proper channels when working with Corporate Communications. RRC will ask Cheryl to follow-up to ensure the committee is following the proper processes; if there are written guidelines and procedures that can be accessed.
 - The committee will also look into creating an internal document with workflows and tracking systems containing the data and information.

6. New Business

None.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.

8. Adjournment

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Moved by Edward Choi

Seconded by Darius Sookrum

Carried