



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting

Monday February 1, 2021

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
<p data-bbox="203 661 349 693"><u>Committee</u></p> <p data-bbox="203 735 470 1239">Andrew Yu, Chair Darius Sookrum Edward Choi Nayani Nandakumar Mohamad Mtairek Hamza Sivanathan Suat Kenar Faiz Mohyuddin Madge Logan Danielle Russell Claudette Rutherford Tamarie Warner Sujane Kandasamy Councillor Isa Lee</p> <p data-bbox="203 1281 292 1312"><u>Guests</u></p> <p data-bbox="203 1354 673 1386">Alicia Lauzon, York Regional Police</p> <p data-bbox="203 1428 267 1459"><u>Staff</u></p> <p data-bbox="203 1501 771 1638">Mona Nazif, Staff Liaison (Senior Manager, Human Resources) Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and Committee Coordinator</p>	

The Race Relations Committee convened at 6:04 PM with Andrew Yu presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Faiz Mohyuddin

Seconded by Darius Sookrum

That the February 1, 2021 Race Relations Committee Agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Welcome to new Committee Members

- Madge Logan
- Danielle Russell
- Claudette Rutherford
- Tamarie Warner

The Committee welcomed new Members to the Race Relations Committee. Members and staff participated in round table introductions and discussed their professions, reasons and interests for joining the Race Relations Committee.

4. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair in April 2021

The Chair made an announcement that elections for the position of Chair and Vice Chair will be conducted in April 2021 for the upcoming year. It was noted that members may nominate themselves. Nominations may be emailed to staff or made at an upcoming meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes from the January 12, 2021 meeting

Moved by Faiz Mohyuddin

Seconded by Nayani Nandakumar

That the Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Race Relations Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Business Related to Previous Minutes (January 12, 2021)

There was none disclosed.

7. Many Faces of Markham

a. Theme

There was discussion in relation to the rationale to select Black Lives Matter as the theme for the Many Faces of Markham 2021 event and whether there was

consideration to include the Indigenous community. The Chair noted that there was a previous theme related to Indigenous Reconciliation and that this year, anti-Black racism is a prominent focus. The theme was not intended to be exclusionary and that consideration could be made to initiate a more inclusive theme to engage all communities to support Many Faces of Markham in the future.

The Committee discussed action phrases to include in an updated theme that may be more conducive to greater participation from the community. The discussion resulted in a new theme for Many Faces of Markham 2021, **Working Together to Confront Anti-Black Racism**.

An annotation was made to the January 12, 2021 minutes to update the theme.

Moved by Darius Sookrum

Seconded by Edward Choi

Be it resolved that the theme for Many Faces of Markham, 2021 be, Working Together to Confront Anti-Black Racism and that an annotation be made to the minutes of January 12, 2021 to note this update.

Carried

b. Review of Many Faces of Markham Project Plan

Mona Nazif, Senior Manager Human Resources provided an update with respect to the project plan and will begin work with the Corporate Communications department on the development of collateral and visual support for the communication packages that will be sent to school boards and community groups to solicit participation. The package will be circulated to the Committee for review.

Committee members were asked to leverage their contacts and provide names of five community groups that the communication packages can be sent to in an effort to extend the reach of Many Faces of Markham beyond the school boards.

Staff were asked to provide a link to a Google document to the Committee so that Members may collaborate on ideas and submit names of community groups in support of the Many Faces of Markham initiative.

8. Black History Month

The Committee discussed various initiatives in support and celebration of Black History Month:

- Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA) is working with the York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (YRAACC) to honour outstanding people in the Black community;
- Schools are highlighting Black innovators and STEM related projects;

- The City and MACCA will launch a pre-recorded video in support of Black History Month with the theme of Words of Wisdom on social media on February 17, 2021;
- Through the Markham Public Library- Artist Talk, North American Pop Culture with M. Faulkner, and Black History Month story telling;
- Launch of Let's Talk about Racism eLearning public licenses

9. Proclamation for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21, 2021

Staff confirmed that the proclamation request was received by the Clerk's department and will advise the Committee which Council meeting agenda this will be included on.

10. Diversity Action Plan Refresh RFP

Mona Nazif advised that the first draft of the RFP has been completed and that the next steps include an internal review and approval process, and then going out to market for a vendor. The Committee suggested that cultural competence be included as an RFP requirement.

11. Anti-Black Racism E-Learning

Mona Nazif provided an update and noted that the City is working on purchasing additional licenses and will ensure that Committee Members are on the distribution list for them when they are available. Debrief workshops for staff will start to roll out in February to provide a further opportunity for staff to learn about the history and impact of anti-Black racism in Canada.

12. Round Table Talk

The Committee discussed the following items during the Round Table Talk as potential topics for future meetings:

- The effects of the pandemic on racialized communities and potential remedies;
- The consideration of racial diversity in the City's public art collection;
- Inviting York Region Public Health to a future Race Relations Committee meeting to discuss racialized communities with respect to the pandemic;
- The review of the roles and objectives of the committee;
- Understanding that the pandemic is an important item of consideration for the Race Relations Committee;
- The consideration to educate each other, engage in group discussions on racial labels, terminology and their meanings on an annual, or quarterly basis and potentially share with other groups externally; and,
- The collaboration and sharing of information regarding anti-racism to Committee Members.

10. Next official meeting date: March 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Nayani Nandakumar

Seconded by Edward Choi

That the Race Relations meeting adjourn at 7:57 PM.

Carried