



**RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Monday March 1, 2021**

**6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

<p><b><u>Attendance:</u></b></p> <p><u>Committee</u></p> <p>Andrew Yu, Chair Darius Sookrum Edward Choi Nayani Nandakumar Mohamad Mtairek Madge Logan Danielle Russell Claudette Rutherford Tamarie Warner Sujane Kandasamy Councillor Isa Lee (arrived at 7:45 PM)</p> <p><u>Guests</u></p> <p>Mary-ann Chambers Mayor Frank Scarpitti Andy Taylor, CAO Claudia Storto, City Solicitor Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff</p> <p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>Mona Nazif, Staff Liaison (Senior Manager, Human Resources) Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u></p> <p>Alicia Lauzon, York Regional Police Hamza Sivanathan Suat Kenar Faiz Mohyuddin</p>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 6:05 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. He welcomed all the Committee Members, and special guests; Mary Anne Chambers, Mayor Scarpitti, Claudia Storto, Andy Taylor, and Bryan Frois.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by** Darius Sookrum

**Seconded by** Edward Choi

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

Carried

### **3. Welcome to new Committee Members by Mayor Scarpitti and Special Guests**

Mayor Scarpitti addressed the Committee and expressed his pride in the Committee's achievements over the years. He acknowledged the passion and enthusiasm in the work done by the Chair, Andrew Yu, Committee Members and Councillor Isa Lee. The Mayor thanked, Mona Nazif for her contributions, especially in recent months and recognized Bryan Frois for his continued efforts. Further appreciation was extended to Mary Anne Chambers for her contributions and that the City is well served by her guidance.

The Mayor took this opportunity to welcome the new Members: Madge Logan; Danielle Russell; Claudette Rutherford; and, Tamarie Warner and thanked them for their commitment in joining the Committee. He noted that the Committee is here to address all racism and work towards an inclusive community. He suggested that all Members spread the word on the work done so far in relation to the Anti-Black Racism E-Learning, the RFP for the Diversity Action Plan, and a call out to fill positions on the Mayors Liaison Committee.

Chair, Andrew Yu thanked the Mayor for his remarks and extended his appreciation on behalf of the Committee to the City. He also thanked all the special guest for attending the meeting.

Andy Taylor, CAO and Claudia Storto, City Solicitor addressed the Committee and extended their appreciation for the commitment and work done so far by Members, and staff and indicated there is more to come. The hiring of a Diversity Equity Inclusion Specialist demonstrates the importance of this role and the work it will do. Additionally, the Race Relations Committee Terms of Reference will be updated in conjunction with those of other advisory groups to facilitate consistency across the groups.

Mary Anne Chambers expressed her commitment to undertake the necessary work and welcomed the new Members. She indicated that the strength of the community stems from the commitment of the Committee and thanked Members for volunteering their time and wisdom to make a difference.

There was a brief question and answer period where the following topics were discussed:

- The role of the Committee as viewed by the Mayor;

- How the City will go beyond events and policies to demonstrate change – showing that Markham is an inclusive community; and,
- The direction of the Committee going forward.

#### **4. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair in April 2021**

There was no discussion on this matter.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes from the February 1, 2021 meeting**

**Moved by** Mohamad Mtairek

**Seconded by** Danielle Russell

That the Minutes of the February 1, 2021 Race Relations Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

#### **6. Business Related to Previous Minutes (February 1, 2021)**

There was an inquiry on an the action plan for round table discussion topics and that updates may be provided in Business Related to Previous Minutes.

Mona Nasif provided an update on the following:

- Public Art: Christina Kakaflikas, Director, Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship has been invited to an upcoming meeting;
- Public Health and data collection of marginalized communities: Public Health as well as representatives from the City's Emergency Operations Centre have been invited to upcoming meetings. Information on vaccine clinics, location decisions, lessons learned from communications will be provided;
- Data Collection: York Region Police indicated that the timeline to collect and compile data is 2 years and that officials are working with Statistics Canada on this initiative which is in the beginning stages.

The Committee was asked to prepare questions in advance of the attendance of the meetings where the special guests will be in attendance.

In consideration of comments made in relation to reaching out to other groups to learn about each other, staff suggested that the Committee develop a statement on the current objectives, the engagement of constructive dialogues and subsequent action that can be forwarded to Council for endorsement.

#### **7. Many Faces of Markham**

##### **a. Poster Confirmation: work plan and direction**

The Committee expressed preference to poster Option 2 and further discussion ensued regarding the context, consideration of using images from a previous event with real people to address a real issue, and better represent the theme.

Staff appreciated the feedback and follow up on locating a photo to represent the theme and action for the poster.

## **8. City Updates**

Staff provided an update with respect to the launch of public licenses for the Anti-Black Racism E-Learning on the City Portal and invited Members to share the link. There was a brief discussion in relation to concerns over the American content of the module. Staff indicated that while Canadian content was incorporated they were aware of the American references in the development of the module and will provide a response to address concerns.

## **9. Round Table Talk**

There was no discussion.

**10. Next official meeting date: April 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM.**

## **11. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Edward Choi

**Seconded by** Tamarie Warner

That the Race Relations meeting adjourn at 8:04 PM.

**Carried**