



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Jun 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

<i>Attendance:</i>	
<u>Committee</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Nayani Nandakumar, Vice Chair Edward Choi Madge Logan Mohamad Mtairek Danielle Russell Claudette Rutherford Suat Kenar Satya Arora Jas Atwal Hamza Sivanathan Faiz Mohyuddin Councillor Isa Lee Sujane Kandasamy <u>Special Guests</u> Maxine Roy, Senior Manager, Heleen Arora <u>Staff</u> Joanne Kinya Baker, Staff Liaison (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist) Chasidy Palmer, Intern, CAO's Office Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and Committee Coordinator	<u>Regrets</u>

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Race Relations Committee meeting convened at 6:04 PM with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair.

2. Adoption of the June 6, 2022, agenda.

Moved by: Suat Kenar

Seconded by: Mohamad Mtairek

That the June 6, 2022 Race Relations Committee Meeting Agenda be adopted.

Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes from May 9, 2022.

Moved by: Madge Logan

Seconded by: Danielle Russell

That the May 9, 2022, Race Relations Committee Minutes be confirmed.

Carried

4. Business Related to Previous Minutes

There was none.

5. Welcome of new Committee Members

The Committee welcomed new members, Jas Atwal and Satya Arora. All attendees participated in round table introductions describing their experience and noting reasons for their interest in participating on the RRC.

Special Guests

Maxine Roy, Senior Communications Advisor, addressed the Committee to provide a brief introduction to the City's Corporate Communications team and how it works with all areas in the City. She highlighted various functions and events conducted on behalf of the City in accordance with City policies and guidelines.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Events for groups to be recognized and having appropriate resources support;
- Concerns with how key decisions and communications are made;
- The City's response to diversity, equity and inclusion across the community and the importance of representation of all skin types and colours for all communications;
- That there be consideration to increase the use of images of Black people with respect to programs for Black students;
- Posting of community resources on City website; and,
- Sharing Committee information and messaging on City website.

Staff provided information in relation to action items identified in the Diversity Action plan and will reflect on ways to increase communications and community involvement to the Committee.

Herleen Aurora and Jessica Ketwaroo-Green of the South Asian and Tamil Women's Collective were in attendance to promote the, *Leading for Change Program*.

Ms. Herleen addressed the Committee and advised that this collective is a not for profit, grass roots organization to support women in marginalized groups overcome barriers to run for civic office. She indicated that this initiative is series of weekly virtual and in-person learning opportunities that are being offered to 10 individuals from underrepresented communities aspiring to be a municipal leader in Markham.

The Committee congratulated Ms. Aurora and Ms. Ketwaroo-Green on this initiative and inquired about the program and the types of community engagement planned. Councillor Isa Lee was acknowledged for her work at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

6. Updates

Race Relations Sub-Committee Update - no updates at this time

Diversity Action Plan Update

Ms. Kinya-Baker advised that Council passed the Diversity Action Plan and that it will be launched with members of the Toronto Metropolitan University on July 13, 2022 at Aaniin Community Centre.

The Committee suggested that invitations to the launch be extended to community religious members, the Mayors Youth Task Force, the Black Youth Task Force and schools for increased representation. The Committee highlighted the importance of community engagement, in multiple languages, and that all members of the community feel welcome.

7. Vacancy Recruitment

- a. Staff advised that there is support to keep a vacancy open and revolving for a member of the Indigenous Community. It was noted that Tia Kennedy will attend future meetings.
- b. Committee Recommendation to Council in the fall:

That the Race Relations Committee request Council to increase the membership to permit the appointment of a member of the Indigenous community.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

8. New Business/Other

There were no new business or other matters discussed.

9. Next Official Meeting Date: Monday, September 12, 2022, at 6:00 PM

10. Adjournment

Moved By: Satya Aroa

Seconded By: Edward Choi

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