



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Zoom Meeting

September 12, 2022

6:00 p.m.

<i>Attendance:</i>	
<u>Committee</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Darius Sookram, Chair Nayani Nandakumar, Vice Chair Edward Choi Madge Logan Mohamad Mtairek Danielle Russell Suat Kenar Satya Arora Jas Atwal Faiz Mohyuddin Councillor Isa Lee	Sujane Kandasamy Hamza Sivanathan Claudette Rutherford
<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	

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Race Relations Committee meeting convened at 6:04 PM with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair. The Chair began the meeting with a reading of the Land Acknowledgement and welcomed Members to the first meeting after the summer break.

The Committee observed a Moment of Silence in recognition of the James Smith Cree Nation victims.

The Committee observed a Moment of Silence for Her Majesty, The Queen.

2. Adoption of the September 12, 2022, agenda.

Moved by: Satya Arora

Seconded by: Edward Choi

That the September 12, 2022 Race Relations Committee Meeting Agenda be adopted.

3. Approval of the Minutes from June 6, 2022.

Moved by: Satya Arora

Seconded by: Suat Kenar

That the Jun 6, 2022, Race Relations Committee Minutes be adopted with the friendly amendment to indicate that Sujane Kandasamy was in attendance at that meeting.

4. Business Related to Previous Minutes

The Committee acknowledged the City's willingness to start conversations and post diverse equity and inclusive communications on the city website and on social media posts. Communication messages are now more reflective of the members of the community.

The Committee noted the recently improved working relationship with Corporate Communications and acknowledged the contributions from Joanne Kinya Baker and Chasidy Palmer in this regard. The committee expressed the desire for Corporate Communications to continue working together with the Race Relations Committee to communicate and promote meaningful engagement for all communities.

5. Committee and Sub-Committee Updates

Diversity Action Plan Update

The Committee discussed the Diversity Action Plan (DAP) launch event that was held over the summer and indicated that it was well attended. Committee Member, Madge Logan was presented with an award at the event, while Darius Sookram served as the events Co-MC.

The DAP is a 5 year plan and in each year there will be touch points to be accountable to the community and reports on milestones and checkmarks with items such as the increase of black hires, accessible spaces etc. There has been positive reception and support from city staff, Members of Council and the community.

Many Faces of Markham Sub Committee

Theme: "Your Markham: Allyship in the Fight Against Racism"

The Committee discussed how the 2022 event was paused and that the theme is being used for 2023. There will be a sub-committee meeting in the coming weeks to discuss next steps and engagement with community groups, school boards, and trustees.

Policy Sub-Committee

No update at this time.

Communications Sub-Committee

No update at this time. Satya Arora expressed interest to join this sub-committee.

7. New Business/Other

There will be information in relation to the Terms of Reference, Social Media and Communication Policies provided at an upcoming meeting.

There have been opportunities created to overcome financial barriers in relation to City run programs where certain program fees were waived to engage youth in obtaining qualifications for various City employment opportunities.

Ms. Kinya Baker advised that there will be a Leading for Change event on October 1, 2022, led by the South Asian Tamil Women's Collective to initiate conversations for leadership and engaging in the electoral process. A link to the [Municipal Democracy Index](#) was shared to provide some context for the FCM grant application that was awarded for this program.

It was indicated that an invitation will be sent to all Committee Members.

The Chair led a round table discussion on what Members are thankful for which included the following:

- The ability to have discussions in a safe place;
- The promotion of equity, love and belonging;
- The opportunity the Committee creates for underrepresented groups and to achieve equality and justice for all regardless of nationality, culture or race;
- That everyone should have equal opportunities;
- The learnings obtained from children and youth;
- City staff and improved relationships with City departments; the committee shared a deep appreciation for the liaisons from the City that support this committee; Ms. Kinya Baker, Ms Giantsopoulos, and Ms. Palmer.
- The integration and intersectionality of the Committee's collaborative environment; and,
- The dedication and work of Committee members.

Members of the Committee congratulated Satya Arora and Faiz Mohyuddin on receiving a Platinum Jubilee Award from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for their positive contributions to their communities.

The Committee expressed interest in attending other advisory group meetings and visa-versa in efforts to establish relationships, understand and assist each other in reaching their objectives.

8. Next Official Meeting Date: Monday, October 3, 2022, at 6:00 PM

9. Adjournment

Moved By: Edward Choi

Seconded By: Madge Logan

That the Race Relations meeting adjourn at 7:29 PM.