



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Agenda

Zoom Meeting

January 9, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Committee

Darius Sookram, Chair
Nayani Nandakumar, Vice Chair
Satya Arora
Edward Choi
Madge Logan
Jas Atwal
Danielle Russell
Suat Kenar
Mohamad Mtairek
Sujane Kandasamy
Councillor Isa Lee

Alicia Lauzon, York Regional Police

Staff

Chasidy Palmer, Intern, CAO's Office
Jamaal Kossy, Staff Liaison (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist)
Jessica Ketwaroo-Green, Staff Liaison (Diversity Equity and Inclusion Specialist)
Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Faiz Mohyuddin
Hamza Sivanathan
Claudette Rutherford

1. Chair's Opening Remark

The Race Relations Committee meeting convened at 6:05 PM. Darius Sookram presided as Chair and read the Land Acknowledgement.

The Committee engaged in informal introductions of all members present and the new City staff members, Jamaal Kossy and Jessica Ketwaroo-Green. Chasidy Palmer advised that her time as an intern at the City has ended and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be part of this Committee.

2. Adoption of the January 9, 2023, agenda.

Moved by: Satya Arora

Seconded by: Nayani Nandakumar

That the January 9, 2023 Race Relations Committee Meeting Agenda be adopted.

3a. Approval of the Minutes from November 7, 2022.

Moved by: Satya Arora

Seconded by: Suat Kenar

That the November 7, 2022, Race Relations Committee Minutes be adopted.

3b. Receipt of the December 5, 2022 Race Relations Committee Minutes.

Moved by: Madge Logan

Seconded by: Satya Arora

That the December 5, 2022, Race Relations Committee Minutes be received.

4. Business Related to Previous Minutes

- Language and Training Discussion
 - The Sub-Committee will arrange for a training session for Race Relation Committee members that will provide information on language and understanding of various terms, critical race theories, intersectionality and to improve communication. It was suggested that the training be between 30 minutes to one hour. Jessica and Jamal to assist with the facilitation of the session.
 - Understanding of language and terms is an on-going initiative and that this training session is a starting point for the Committee and an opportunity to share with other community groups.
- MFOM Online or In-person
 - The 2023 event can be in-person but a virtual event may take place to ensure everyone's comfort and safety. Jamaal will provide further clarification on the structure and location of this Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) event and investigate available dates at the Markham Theatre.
- Meeting other committee groups
 - City advisory committee meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. A list of advisory committees that are currently meeting and their upcoming schedule will be circulated for interested members to attend for cross

5. Committee and Sub-Committee Updates

- DEI Office Update
 - DEI initiatives are underway;
 - Planning of Black History Month events;
 - Indigenous training will be provided within the Four Seasons Training and access to be provided to all Advisory Committees.
- Race Relations Sub-Committees
 - Many Faces of Markham Sub Committee
 - Theme: Your Markham, Allyship in the Fight Against Racism;
 - Event is usually centred around the Day to Eliminate Racism (UN, March 21);
 - Timelines are of concern as the event will not take place in March;
 - Using the school year timeline will promote greater participation;
 - Next steps are to develop timelines, posters, invitations, letters, and a list of community groups to solicit participation.
 - Policy Sub-Committee
 - Terms of Reference Update
 - No further update
 - Communications Sub-Committee
 - No further update

6. New Business/Other

- Data Deliverables and Metrics for Anti-Black Racism Strategy
 - An update will be provided at an upcoming meeting.
- Succession Planning
 - Suggestion that Danielle consider the position of Chair for the RRC.
 - Election in February or in March?

7. Next Official Meeting Date: Monday, February 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM

8. Adjournment

Moved By: Satya Arora

Seconded By: Councillor Isa Lee

That the Race Relations meeting adjourn at 7:23 PM.