



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Teams Meeting

December 2, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

P	Danielle Russell, Chair	R	Councillor Juanita Nathan
R	Jas Atwal, Vice-Chair	R	Braman Thillainathan
P	Satya Arora	P	Claudette Rutherford
P	Edward Choi	P	Stephen Yan
P	Madge Logan	P	Joanne Kinya Baker, Manager, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
P	Ali Mtairek	P	Laura, Committee Coordinator
R	Nayani Nandakumar		
R	Rochele Padiachy		

P=Present, A=Absent, L=Late, TD: Technical Difficulties

Agenda Item
<p>1. Call To Order</p> <p>The Race Relations Committee convened at 6:24 PM with Danielle Russell in the Chair.</p> <p>Daneille Russell read the Land Acknowledgement, as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron- Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.</p>
<p>2. Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p>Moved by: Satya Arora Second by: Edward Choi</p> <p>That the December 2, 2024, Race Relations Committee Meeting Agenda be adopted.</p>

3. Approval of the Previous Minutes

Moved by: Satya Arora
Second by: Madge Logan

That the September 9, 2024, Race Relations Committee Meeting Minutes be adopted.

Carried

4. Business Related to the Previous Minutes

The Committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes.

5. Chair's Remarks

Daniel Russell, Chair, advised that this will be her last meeting on the Race Relations Committee, noting that she will be joining the Destination Markham Board of Directors.

The Committee thanked Ms. Russell for her leadership, hard work and dedication while serving on the Committee.

Edward Choi advised that his term on the Committee may also be coming to an end.

6. Update from the Diversity Office on Diversity Action Plan and Anti-Black Racism Plan

Joanne Kinya Baker, Manager, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, provided update from the Diversity Office, including the following:

- That the Multi Year Accessibility Plan will be brought forward to the Council for approval, speaking to how accessibility relates to inclusivity and diversity.

7. Nominations and Election for Chair and Vice-Chair

Claudette Rutherford was nominated for the position of Chair. Claudette Rutherford accepted the nomination and was acclaimed the new Chair as there were no other nominations.

Moved by: Madge Logan
Seconded by: Satya Arora

That Claudette Rutherford be appointed as Chair of the Race Relations Committee.

Carried

Claudette Rutherford briefly introduced herself as the new Chair of the Committee

The appointment of the Vice-Chair will be addressed at the next Race Relations Committee meeting. Members were asked to think about their interest in serving as Vice-Chair prior to the next meeting

8. Many Faces of Markham

8.1 Update and Next Steps

Joanne Kinya Baker, Manager, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, advised that Satya Arora and Rochele Padiachy have agreed to Co-Chair the 2025 Many Faces of Markham event. Satya Arora advised that the Sub-Committee is currently working on brainstorming ideas for the theme of the event.

Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator, advised that she could provide past documentation on the event to the Co-Chairs.

9. New/Other Business

There was no new business.

10. Next Steps – Advice Provided to the City of Markham Council/Staff

This item was not discussed.

11. Next Official Meeting Date:

- Monday, March 3, 2025

12. Adjournment

Moved by: Edward Choi
Seconded by: Satya Arora

The Race Relations Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Carried