



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
April 9, 2018

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u> Astra Josie Rose, Chair Andrew Yu, Vice Chair Maggie Quirt Faiz Mohyuddin Edward Choi Surinder Razdan Devendra Mishra Arul Rajasingam Nayani Nandakumar Harmony Law Sabat Ismail Regional Councillor Joe Li Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist <u>Guests</u> Alicia Lauzon, York Regional Police <u>Staff</u> Martha Pettit, Deputy City Clerk Anna Lee, Committee Co-ordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Rina George-Alexander Sujane Kandasamy Sara Siddiqui Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:05 PM with Astra Josie Rose presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Astra Josie Rose welcomed everyone to the meeting including the 5 new members. Introductions for all members were conducted.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Andrew Yu
Seconded by Maggie Quirt

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meetings held on February 5, 2018 and March 5, 2018 be adopted.

Carried

4. Welcome to New Members

The Chair welcomed the new members: Devendra Mishra, Arul Rajasingam, Nayani Nandakumar, Harmony Law and Sabat Ismail and advised that Clerk's staff will provide an Orientation session at the next meeting in May.

5. Markham Human Resources Update

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Staff Liaison provided an update on the following topics:

York Region Diversity Charter

- Discussed the York Region Diversity Charter with a focus on the terminology and wording. Cheryl advised she will provide draft wording to members and seek their feedback. The target date for completion is set for sometime in June.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

- Cheryl advised that the City of Markham has recently approved a Land Acknowledgement statement that is read-aloud prior to the start of each Council Meeting and enquired whether the Committee wished to do something similar.

Terms of Reference Update

- Cheryl advised work on updating the Terms of Reference is progressing. The Committee discussed the need to ensure that the mandate provides clarity as to the role of the Committee and what their responsibilities are to confirm they are providing value to the community.

Upcoming 2018 Municipal Election

- Discussion ensued on ways the Race Relations Committee could assist with outreach in the upcoming municipal election. City Staff plan to attend a future meeting to gather the Committee's feedback.

Other Updates

- Aanniin Community Centre has recently opened in Markham and are seeking feedback on ideas for the official launch.
- Committee members were advised that a Code of Conduct is being drafted by City staff for all Advisory Committees and Boards. The target for completion is mid-year 2019.
- Website information is being updated to include the 2016 census data.
- Indigenous Day plans continue to develop with events predominantly for staff with a practitioner's guide to inclusion for museums and potentially a lunch and learn opportunity.

6. Race Relations Business

A) Race Relations Committee Work Plan

Chair Astra Josie Rose shared the following updates:

- CCMARD Challenge Debrief – everyone wore red and held up a sign to promote equity and inclusion.
- Human Rights Day – December 10, 2016 - the first Human Rights Day received a good turnout with an estimated 100 people in attendance. The day was officially proclaimed by the City of Markham and included a flag raising event. The focus this year was on youth and involved a panel discussion with diverse participants. This year will be the 70th year of the International Year of Human Rights and the plan is to do something significant to celebrate.
- Many Faces of Markham Event – March 21, 2017- this year's topic was promoting human rights and supporting inclusion. The Committee partnered with School Boards directly which resulted in more participation from the schools. Discussion centred on where the venue will be for next year's event with the suggestion of using St Augustine Catholic School. All Committee Members are encouraged to assist in the planning in order to make this a successful event once again.
- Community Impact Awards – the Community Impact Awards are planned for late September or early October to coincide with the Community Chats. Jose will resend the posters and has approached the Welcome Centres and the Public Libraries to assist with the promotion. The Committee will be supporting the event once again this year and all members are encouraged to sign up to attend.
- Potential New Event - Committee Members discussed the potential for planning a Taste of Markham event that would allow opportunity for attendees to learn about different cultures through food, crafts and other activities. The Committee will continue to flesh out the preliminary planning details for this potential event.

7. New Business

None was identified.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, May 7, 2018 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Edward Choi
Seconded by Faiz Mohyuddin

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Carried