



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
May 7, 2018**

MINUTES

Attendance:	
<u>Committee</u> Astra Josie Rose, Chair Andrew Yu, Vice Chair Maggie Quirt Faiz Mohyuddin Edward Choi Devendra Mishra Nayani Nandakumar Harmony Law Sabat Ismail Regional Councillor Joe Li Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Rina George-Alexander Sujane Kandasamy	<u>Regrets</u> Surinder Razdan Arul Rajasingam Sara Siddiqui Councillor Logan Kanapathi Herleen Sayal
<u>Staff</u> Anna Lee, Committee Co-ordinator Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator	

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.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Faiz Mohyuddin

Seconded by Devendra Mishra

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meetings held on April 9, 2018 be adopted.

Carried

4. Committee Orientation

Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator, conducted the Committee Orientation Session for new members.

5. Markham Human Resources Update

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

Diversity and Inclusion Training

- Cheryl gave a summarized overview of the Diversity and Inclusion Training provided to all City of Markham employees. Cheryl to send out the dates/times of the full training session to the Committee for interested members to join.

Markham Website

- Demographic statistics will be updated with the 2016 Census Data. Committee discussed having tools/resources on diversity and inclusion available on the website for the public.

6. Race Relations Business

A) Race Relations Committee Work Plan

Chair Astra Josie Rose shared the following updates:

- Committees – Connecting with other Committees (Environmental, Accessibility, Youth, Seniors, etc.) and participating in each other's events for further outreach into the community.
- Welcome Centres – Having conversations with Welcome Centres to talk about partnering with them and working together on diversity and conflict resolution.
- Jane Philpott's Reconciliation – April 30th, 2018 - 300+ attendees to discuss indigenous culture and issues the community is facing. Need for more diverse representation of different cultural groups at these discussions.
- Open House follow-up – Making it a space for having different cultural leaders come together to communicate and discuss issues for the next event.
- Taste of Markham Event – Plan a date and start working on this event for next year (June 27th, 2019 – Multiculturalism Day) as there is insufficient time to plan for this event for this year.
- Events – Need to discuss what times of events (cultural events, scholarly discussions, etc.) the committee would like to plan and participate in.
- National Aboriginal Day – June 21st, 2018 – Discussion about what is needed on this day – education, activities, visual aids.

- Milliken Mills Children's Festival – August 16th, 2018 – Committee would like to discuss putting something together for this Festival.
- Human Right's day – December 10th, 2018 – Begin planning for an event this day.
- Armadale Community Centre – Looking into when the Open House will be held.
- Aaniin Community Centre – Discuss proposal to have something that represents the Ojibway culture during an event being held here.

7. New Business

- Markham Sister and Friendship Cities – Discussion on how to educate and communicate this to the community.
- Action Items – Discussion to include an Action Items table (including action, assigned participants and the date) to future Agendas and Minutes for review at the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7:00PM in the Ontario Room.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Maggie Quirt

Seconded by Rina George-Alexander

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 9:07PM.

Carried