



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
March 5, 2018**

MINUTES

Attendance:	
<u>Committee</u> Astra Josie Rose, Chair Andrew Yu, Vice Chair Edward Choi Bobbie France Maggie Quirt	<u>Regrets</u> Rina George-Alexander Salman Hasan Sujane Kandasamy Faiz Mohyuddin Aamer Mohammed Surinder Razdan Sara Siddiqui Councillor Logan Kanapathi Regional Councillor Joe Li Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist
<u>Guest</u> Alicia Lauzon, York Region Police	
<u>Staff</u> Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator	

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:20 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

As there was no quorum, adoption of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Markham Human Resources Update

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Race Relations Business

Chair Astra Josie Rose reported that she had attended a meeting about the Smart City concept and the Smart City Challenge. The smart city concept integrates information and communication technology, and various physical devices connected to the network to optimize the efficiency of city operations and services and connect to citizens. The Smart Cities Challenge is a Federal Government competition open to all municipalities, local or regional governments, and Indigenous communities across Canada. This Challenge will

empower communities to address local issues their residents face through new partnerships, using a smart cities approach. This means achieving meaningful outcomes for residents through the use of data and connected technology. Finalists will receive support to develop their smart cities proposals. Winning communities will be awarded with prize money to help implement them.

It was felt that Markham needs to offer events which embrace all cultures and, encourage integration and connectedness. It was suggested that the Committee could hold a “Taste of Markham” event whereby residents would visit a variety of Markham restaurants, receive a stamp in an electronic “passport”, and be eligible for a prize such as Flato Markham Theatre tickets, swim passes, or lunch with Mayor Scarpitti. The event could run from June 1 – 21 to tie in with Multiculturalism Day. Restaurants could be approached in advance to offer discounts to participating residents. Chair Astra Josie Rose will send Maggie Quirt information from a previous Taste of Markham proposal so that she can draft a letter to restaurants. Chair Astra Josie Rose will discuss the plans with Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Councillor Logan Kanapathi and Reginal Councillor Joe Li.

A) Race Relations Committee Work Plan

Chair Astra Josie Rose shared the following updates:

- Open House - Sara Siddiqui is planning this event entitled “Race Relations – *Living as One Community (Equity and Unity)*. The event has been scheduled for March 21, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the South Hall of Milliken Mills Community Centre. Chair Astra Josie Rose showed Committee members the flyer developed by Corporate Communications to promote the event; she will send it to Councillors to make them aware of the Open House. The Committee discussed possible questions relating to Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) principles to discuss with Open House attendees including:
 - “How can the Race Relations Committee inform Markham residents about diversity and inclusion issues?”
 - “How can we support you?”
 - “What is happening in the community?”
 - “Why is it happening?”

Committee members were encouraged to develop other questions that would engage attendees. Chair Astra Josie Rose requested that Committee members assist at this event.

Bobbie France left the meeting at 8:30 pm.

- Community Awards – Chair Astra Josie Rose reported that Markham staff has requested that the awards recommended that they be held in conjunction with other municipal awards, likely in September.
- CMARD Challenge - Chair Astra Josie Rose distributed and reviewed materials created by UNESCO to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21). It is a social media campaign to raise public awareness about racism and discrimination and the role everyone has to eliminate it. The campaign is built on the hashtag is #It Starts With Me and the idea of wearing red against racism and discrimination. Residents are asked to challenge elected officials

and others to post on social media a photo of themselves wearing something red and holding the sign with the campaign hashtag.

- Many Faces of Markham - The Many Faces of Markham (MFOM) event will be held on March 24, 2018. The Flato Markham Theatre is not available due to scheduling conflicts, therefore the event will be held at Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School. Chairs will be set up by 2:30 pm and the program will start at 4:00 pm. The atrium can be used to display the posters. Chair Astra Josie Rose and Rina George-Alexander will finalize the program this week. Chair Astra Josie Rose will send a list of roles to Committee members and asked them to assist at the event.
- Social Planning Council of York Region event – The Social Planning Council of York Region has asked the Race Relations Committee, Markham Libraries and the Welcome Centre to partner with it to host an event in April. Chair Astra Josie Rose will discuss this initiative with Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Councillor Logan Kanapathi and Regional Councillor Joe Li.

7. New Business

None was reported.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, April 9, 2018 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.