



RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF MARKHAM

**Canada Room, Markham Civic Centre
November 6, 2017**

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Committee</u> Astra Josie Rose, Chair Andrew Yu, Vice Chair Bobbie France Sujane Kandasamy David Quintero Surinder Razdan <u>Council</u> Regional Councillor Joe Li <u>Staff</u> Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator	<u>Regrets</u> Osman Akhtar Edward Choi Rina George-Alexander Salman Hasan Faiz Mohyuddin Aamer Mohammed Maggie Quirt Sara Siddiqui Alicia Lauzon Councillor Logan Kanapathi Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:10 PM with Astra Josie Rose presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Astra Josie Rose welcomed members 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. Update on Committee Terms of Reference

Chair Astra Josie Rose reported that Cheryl McConney-Wilson had sent the updated Committee Terms of Reference to Councillor Kanapathi and Regional Councillor Li, Chair Astra Josie Rose and Vice Chair Andrew Yu for review and comment. The comments will be considered for incorporation in the draft, and it is expected that the revised draft will be shared with the Committee to provide feedback. Chair Astra Josie Rose and Vice Chair Andrew Yu will update the Committee as needed.

6. Race Relations Business

A) Race Relations Committee Work Plan

Chair Astra Josie Rose advised that Surinder Razdan has developed a project application form that the Committee could use to keep its projects on track. Chair Astra Josie Rose will email the form to Committee members for review.

Chair Astra Josie Rose shared the following updates:

- Anti-Hate Crime Initiatives and Community Chats – the subcommittee has not yet met to begin planning. Chair Astra Josie Rose will follow up with the group.
- Open House - Sara Siddiqui is planning this event entitled “Race Relations – *Living as One Community (Equity and Unity)*”. Chair Astra Josie Rose reported that materials have been developed and are awaiting approval from Markham staff. The event is currently scheduled for late January.
- Community Awards – Chair Astra Josie Rose reported that on December 9th, 2017, the community plans to host Markham students and community residents at a Human Rights event, and have a flag raising ceremony and proclamation of December 10th as Human Rights day. Initially, a “Save the Date” notice will be sent to councillors and dignitaries, with further information sent as it is approved. Regional Councillor Joe Li will be asked to speak at the event.

The Community Awards will be presented on March 21 (International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination). It is hoped to have plans and materials in place so that they may be distributed by the end of January 2018.

- Many Faces of Markham - It was reported that the Many Faces of Markham (MFOM) event may be held on March 21 and may not be held at the Markham Flato Theatre due to scheduling conflicts. The subcommittee has investigated holding the event at Pierre Elliott Trudeau high school; they have received permission to hold the event there but are not able to use the lights or AV services. It was suggested that a Markham community centre or the Markham Council Chamber be considered. The theme for the MFOM event will tie in with the theme of the Open House event; the MFOM event will involve children, having them speak about human rights and anti-bullying so as to teach other young children. It is anticipated that there will be four prizes: one each for the Markham school, Markham teacher, Markham elementary school student, and Markham high school student best demonstrating unity.

7. New Business

None was identified.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:15 PM.