



**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE
CITY OF MARKHAM**

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

December 7, 2015

7:00 PM

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u> Astra Josie Rose, Chair Maggie Quirt, Vice Chair Osman Akhtar Moises Calo Bobbie France Rina George-Alexander Salman Hasan Saad Omar Khan Amer Mohammed Harleen Sayal Sarah Siddiqui Barbara Tate</p> <p><u>Council</u> Regional Councillor Joe Li</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Grace Permaul Jacqueline Sang Andrew Yu Councillor Logan Kanapathi Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist</p>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:06 PM with Astra Josie Rose presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Astra Josie Rose welcomed members and thanked them for bringing items for the potluck dinner.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. Approval of the Minutes

It was

Moved by Osman Akhtar
Seconded by Bobbie France

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee meeting held on November 2, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. Markham Human Resources Update

No report was available.

5. Race Relations Business

A) Many Faces of Markham (MFOM)

The following updates were provided:

- The youth emcee has been confirmed
- The Committee will need to be proactive in recruiting performers for the show
- Chair Astra Josie Rose and Rina George-Alexander will set the dates for performer auditions
- Chair Astra Josie Rose encouraged all members to participate in the selection process for performers and contest winners
- Save the Date notices have been sent
- Letters have been sent to Markham Catholic School Board schools; Laura Gold is waiting for permission to send them to Markham Public School Board schools
- Laura Gold will be asked to send the package to Committee members
- The electronic version of the poster has been sent to libraries and community centres, and will be sent to community groups and church groups

B) Community Roundtables

It has been agreed that a concrete event is needed to regain momentum. Committee members discussed next steps, as well as how to decide on the focus and end goals for another event. It was agreed that the Committee needs to closely define the group it wishes to address in order to be responsive yet stay true to its mandate. Committee members questioned whether the Committee needs to define itself more accurately. It was suggested that the Committee revisit its Terms of Reference to identify both strategic and tactical initiatives. Chair Astra Josie Rose will send Committee members the Committee work plan for review.

Participants at the Community Roundtables event identified that there were not enough opportunities to address issues affecting youth so it was thought to hold an event with this focus. It was suggested to invite representatives from the Mayor's Youth Task Force to make a presentation to the Committee about this.

Regional Councillor Joe Li left at 8:05 pm.

6. New Business

A) Community Engagement

Committee members discussed the current resettlement of Syrian refugees in Canada in general and in Markham specifically, and whether the Committee might be of assistance. It was agreed that the Committee could take a proactive role to reduce potential racist backlash, to educate Markham residents about the benefits of refugee resettlement, and to reach out to groups who might have fears about refugees arriving in Markham.

B) Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

Vice Chair Maggie Quirt reported that she is working on a revised motion relating to the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action for consideration at the January meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on January 11, 2016 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

8. Adjournment

It was

Moved by Rina George-Alexander
Seconded by Maggie Quirt

That the Race Relations Committee adjourn at 9:05 PM.

CARRIED