



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

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

June 1, 2015

7:00 PM

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u> Astra Josie Rose, Chair Maggie Quirt, Vice Chair Bobbie France Saad Omar Khan Grace Permaul Amer Mohammed Sarah Siddiqui Jacqueline Sang Ramon Solis Andrew Yu</p> <p><u>Council</u> Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p><u>Guest</u> YRP Ricky Veerapan</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Moises Calo Osman Akhtar Rina George-Alexander Salman Hasan Harleen Sayal Darius Sookram, Immediate Past Chair Barbara Tate Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources Regional Councillor Joe Li</p>
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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

Astra Josie Rose thanked members for attending the last meeting until September 2015.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed with two items added as New Business:

- Sub-committees
- Terms of Reference.

3. Approval of the Minutes

It was

Moved by Ramon Solis
Seconded by Grace Permaul

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee meetings held on April 13, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. Markham Human Resources Update

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, advised that

- the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be holding an Accommodation Fair at the Pan Am Centre on October 24, 2015. Ms. McConney-Wilson asked Committee members to let her know of any associations dedicated to providing services to those with disabilities in racialized groups, so they could be invited to participate.
- another tour of religious centres will be held in August, and she asked for assistance from Committee members to provide contacts within their own faith for emergency situations. YRP Ricky Veerapan advised that a YRP officer is studying this and would like to work with the community; it is possible that training could be developed for the Committee.
- lunch 'n learn sessions have been held on Aboriginal and deaf culture. Markham is holding a Pan Am Pow Wow on June 27 for the 2015 Pan am/Para Pan Am Torch Relay.

6. Race Relations Business

A) Community Consultation Roundtable

Vice Chair Maggie Quirt reviewed the data from the Community Roundtable session which indicated stakeholders were focused on issues related to youth. She distributed a draft letter to be sent to those who attended the Community Roundtable session; she will discuss it with the subcommittee members. The Committee agreed to use a broad definition of “youth” for discussions of issues which affect racialized youth.

B) Many Faces of Markham

Chair Astra Josie Rose advised that the goals of the Many Faces of Markham event are to promote cultural interaction, celebrate diversity, and increase commitment to build inclusivity within the community. She advised that the theme for the 2016 event will showcase aboriginal culture in York Region unless the subcommittee proposes another theme. Vice Chair Maggie Quirt advised that the Aboriginal Toolkit is now part of school curriculum and it would be timely for students to express their understanding of aboriginal culture in essays and art posters.

C) “Taste Of Markham”

Cheryl McConney-Wilson will work with Bobbie France, Chair of the Taste of Markham sub-committee, to determine the vision and timing for the event. She suggested that they get ideas from Councillor Logan Kanapathi, YRP Ricky Veerapan, and groups who have conducted similar events to obtain information about what has worked well.

D) Community Inclusivity Equity Council Of York Region (CIECYR)

Chair Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Maggie Quirt, Jacqueline Sang, and YRP Ricky Veerapan attended the CIECYR Second Bi-annual Diversity Equity & Inclusivity Symposium 2015: Truth, Reconciliation & Engagement. The symposium was considered to be transformative and inspiring, featuring heartfelt presentations with powerful testimony of what aboriginals have experienced and what they still experience today. Chair Astra Josie Rose will distribute the final report when available.

Further discussion focussed on how people have been affected by trauma and how that impacts York Region. It was noted that South Africa has one of the most effective truth and reconciliation processes in the world and Canada will be able to learn from it.

E) CMARD

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. New Business

A) Diversity Dialogues

Cheryl McConney-Wilson reported that there were 60 attendees at this event held on May 4, 2015. Mayor Scarpitti and Council members also attended and participated. Race Relations Committee members facilitated discussions focused on what it is to be Canadian and what is needed to help immigrants to be Canadian. It was thought that many comments heard here were similar to those heard at the Community Round Table event.

B) York Region Police Presentation

YRP Ricky Veerapan was asked to provide information on the practice of carding, the systemic random stopping of citizens. He advised that York Region Police do not use this practice, police must have a legitimate reason to stop and question a citizen, and information is gathered through police engagement for legal law enforcement purposes only. If someone is to be detained, a YRP officer must advise the reason for it. It is felt by York Region Police that policing is an incredible privilege and YRP officers are trained to respect that position.

C) Sub-committees

Chair Astra Josie Rose distributed and reviewed rationales for the following subcommittees: Community Roundtable Subcommittee, Many Faces of Markham, Treasurer, Taste of Markham, and Community Engagement (to include awards). It is hoped that the variety of subcommittees will appeal to various members' interests and also help achieve the Committee's goals. Subcommittees will be informal and report their results to the Race Relations Committee.

It would be ideal for two members to head each subcommittee so that if one member had some time commitments, the other member could ensure planning continued.

The following members agreed to chair the following committees:

Community Roundtable Subcommittee	Saad Omar Khan
Many Faces of Markham	Maggie Quirt, Rina George-Alexander
Taste of Markham	Bobbie France

Chair Astra Josie Rose will send information in Survey Monkey to determine interest in being part of the subcommittees so they are operational by September.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on September 14, 2015 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

8. Adjournment

It was

Moved by	Andrew Yu
Seconded by	Bobbie France

That the Race Relations Committee adjourn at 9:20 PM.

CARRIED