



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

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

March 2, 2015

7:00 PM

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Moises Calo Carla Crooks Bobbie France Saad Omar Khan Grace Permaul Maggie Quirt Barbara Tate</p> <p><u>Council</u> Councillor Logan Kanapathi Regional Councillor Joe Li</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Rina George-Alexander Osman Akhtar Jacqueline Sang Ramon Solis Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist</p>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:10 PM with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Darius Sookram welcomed Committee members to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. Approval of the Minutes

It was

Moved by Astra Josie Rose
Seconded by Moises Calo

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee meetings held on December 1, 2014 and January 5, 2015 be adopted as amended with one change *in italics*:

Markham Human Resources Update

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, advised Committee members that the Diversity Action Plan has been launched; some activities consider *a variety of aspects relating to diversity including medical disabilities, such as autism*, and cultural beliefs.

CARRIED

4. Markham Human Resources Update

Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources, reported that Markham hosted a delegation from Sweden who wished to learn about Markham's efforts to strengthen its commitment to inclusion and diversity. Ms. Laing presented information about government structures and policies related to diversity, and Councillor Joe Li assisted Ms. Laing in presenting information about Markham's journey in fostering a greater understanding of diversity throughout the community, Markham's Diversity Action Plan, Advisory Committees focused on diversity partnerships, and advancing the work of Council of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD). Councillor Li reported that the Swedish delegates were pleased with the ways in which Markham has embraced diversity.

5. Race Relations Business

A) Many Faces of Markham

The Committee has agreed to adopt the theme "Getting to Know Your Neighbour" for the 2015 Many Faces of Markham event which is scheduled to take place at the Flato Markham Theatre on Sunday March 22, 2015 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Astra Josie Rose reported that planning details are progressing well and she thanked everyone who assisted in judging the contest submissions. Duane "D.O." Gibson is excited to serve as emcee and give a keynote speech; Carla Crook's son will assist with the emcee duties. Astra Josie Rose has finished the script and will ask Laura Gold to review it. Astra Josie Rose reported that she is still trying to secure a headline act to open the event. She reviewed the list of tasks to be carried out on the day of event and Committee members volunteered to assist; Astra Josie Rose will update the list and send it to Committee members.

Addendum: On March 7, 2015, Astra Josie Rose emailed the updated Volunteer List to Committee members.

Chairs of sub-committees should meet at the theatre at 12 noon to begin the set up. Astra Josie Rose will ask Laura Gold to confirm times with Committee members and to confirm that Markham Councillors have been invited.

The Committee discussed how to shorten the awards process. It was agreed to distribute most awards during the registration and have a group photo taken with Mayor Frank Scarpitti at the end of the awards ceremony. However, winners of first place prizes will receive their awards on stage; it was agreed that the first place awards will be colour coded in some way to distinguish them from other awards. Astra Josie Rose will send Barbara Tate the list of award winners so that she can confirm the correct pronunciation of names.

B) Community Consultation Roundtable

The concept of the roundtable discussions was explained for those who were not part of the planning for the event. Maggie Quirt has collated the data from the Community Roundtable session; Chair Darius Sookram asked her to email the information to Committee members. Maggie Quirt will prepare a letter to the community and email it to all Committee members so they can review it in advance of the next meeting. At the April meeting, the Committee will devote at least an hour to discussion of the Roundtable data and considering how best to move forward on the issues, including reviewing the Committee's role or scope, what would be needed, and ways it could partner with others to achieve results.

C) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was

Moved by Maggie Quirt
Seconded by Carla Crook

THAT Astra Josie Rose be elected as Chair of the Markham Race Relations Committee.

CARRIED

It was

Moved by Moises Calo
Seconded by Saad Omar Khan

THAT Maggie Quirt be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Race Relations Committee.

CARRIED

Chair Darius Sookram advised that it has been a privilege to serve as chair of the Committee and to serve with others passionate about fostering diversity and inclusion in Markham. Committee members, Sharon Laing, and Councillor Logan Kanapathi thanked Darius Sookram for his many years of leadership with the Race Relations Committee.

Barbara Tate reported that, on behalf of the Committee, she attended Markham's Committee Open House. She was approached by many diverse professionals interested in

participating on the Committee. She gave Darius Sookram their business cards so that they might be invited to a future meeting.

Saad Omar Khan, Moises Calo and Regional Councillor Joe Li left the meeting at 8:15 pm.

D) “Taste Of Markham”

Bobbie France reported that the Committee has no budget for this event and it is too late to plan it in conjunction with the Pan Am Games. Next year, the Committee could consider holding it in place of the Many Faces of Markham event, and could possibly plan it in conjunction with the Markham Children’s Festival. Bobbie France agreed to serve as Chair of a sub-committee to plan such an event.

E) CMARD

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

F) COMMUNITY INCLUSIVITY EQUITY COUNCIL of YORK REGION (CIECYR)

Astra Josie Rose will submit a formal request to Sharon Laing to fund the registration costs for one Committee member to attend the CIECYR Second Bi-annual Diversity Equity & Inclusivity Symposium 2015: Truth, Reconciliation & Engagement on April 28 - 30, 2015.

It was

Moved by Maggie Quirt

Seconded by Carla Crook

THAT the Markham Race Relations Committee request funding for Astra Josie Rose to attend the CIECYR Second Bi-annual Diversity Equity & Inclusivity Symposium on April 28 - 30, 2015.

CARRIED

6. New Business

None was identified.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, [April 13](#), 2015 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

8. Adjournment

It was

Moved by Barbara Tate

Seconded by Bobbie France

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That the Race Relations Committee adjourn at 8:40 PM.

CARRIED