



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

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre**

**January 5, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

<b>Attendance:</b> <u>Committee</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Osman Akhtar Moises Calo Dr. Maggie Quirt Barbara Tate  <u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator	<u>Regrets</u> Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Carla Crooks Bobbie France Rina George-Alexander Saad Omar Khan Grace Permaul Jacqueline Sang Ramon Solis Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi Regional Councillor Joe Li Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:12 PM with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair.

**1. Chair's Opening Remarks**

Darius Sookram welcomed Committee members to the meeting and thanked them for braving the extreme cold to attend the meeting. It was suggested that, in the future, the first meeting of the New Year be held on the second Monday of January.

**2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

Since there was no quorum, approval of the minutes was deferred to the February 2, 2015 meeting.

**4. Markham Human Resources Update**

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, advised Committee members that the Diversity Action Plan has been launched; some activities consider both medical and cultural aspects of diversity.

Ms. McConney-Wilson requested the assistance of Committee members in seeking and reviewing information about diversity on the Markham website. She asked them to advise her of what they found and any other information they felt should be added. Committee members expressed the opinion that diversity is embedded in Markham's values and therefore diversity should be featured prominently on the Markham website.

It was suggested that, at its next meeting, the Committee consider the following motion: That the Race Relations Committee recommend to Markham Council that Diversity be featured on the home page of the Markham website and provide a link or links to other associated information.

## **5. Race Relations Business**

### **A) Many Faces of Markham**

It was reported that Laura Gold, Council & Committee Coordinator, had sent an email to Committee members requesting they note the following dates for the Many Faces of Markham Contest:

- Jan 18 – Judging of Contest Submissions, Canada Room, 10:00 am
- Jan 21 – Many Faces of Markham Submissions, Canada Room, 7:00 p.m.

Addendum: Astra Josie Rose reported by email on January 9, 2015 that Duane "D.O." Gibson has agreed to serve as emcee and give a keynote speech at the Many Faces of Markham event.

### **B) Community Consultation Roundtable**

Dr. Maggie Quirt distributed and reviewed a document entitled "Community Roundtable Discussion – Possible Action Items". She will email the list to all Committee members and Roundtable attendees; it was agreed that the list of items would be discussed in more depth at the next meeting. When considering moving forward on issues, Committee members felt that the Committee should review its role or scope, what would be needed to move forward, and ways it could partner with others to achieve results such as asking one of the Roundtable attendees to develop the issue further. An idea for a future Roundtable might be invite people who could speak about the points that were raised in the first roundtable.

### **C) "TASTE OF MARKHAM"**

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **7. New Business**

- Chair Darius Sookram sent an email message to all Markham Council members congratulating them on their election and advising that the Race Relations Committee seeks to enhance ethno-cultural equity in the city by serving our communities through events, policies, and exploring topics that arise throughout the year. He also attached the Committee's work plan for their review.

- Discussion took place concerning possible plans to recognize Aboriginal Day on June 21, although it was noted that the focus is not on just that one day. Scholars have suggested that governments could be leaders by devoting 1% of property tax to promote aboriginal and indigenous peoples. Cheryl McConney-Wilson will consult with the Elder who is advising Markham on including aboriginal matters in Pan Am ceremonies.

**7. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

**8. Adjournment**

It was

Moved by            Moises Calo

Seconded by        Barbara Tate

That the Race Relations Committee adjourn at 8:15 PM.

CARRIED