



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

**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre**

**December 1, 2014**

**7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <p><u>Committee</u></p> <p>Darius Sookram, Chair Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Osman Akhtar Moises Calo Rina George-Alexander Saad Omar Khan Dr. Maggie Quirt Jacqueline Sang Ramon Solis Barbara Tate</p> <p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>Laura Gold, Council &amp; Committee Coordinator Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u></p> <p>Carla Crooks Bobbie France Grace Permaul Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi Regional Councillor Joe Li Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources</p>
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The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:05 PM with Astra Josie Rose presiding as Chair.

**1. Chair's Opening Remarks**

Astra Josie Rose welcomed Committee members to the meeting and thanked them for bringing authentic foods to share at this potluck dinner meeting.

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, encouraged Committee members to attend the inauguration of the Mayor and Members of Council taking place in the Markham Theatre this evening.

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

The agenda was accepted as distributed, with one addition: Taste of Markham.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

It was

Moved by           Saad Omar Khan  
Seconded by       Moises Calo

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on November 3, 2014 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

### **4. Markham Human Resources Update**

Ms. McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, advised Committee members that the theme of recent Lunch 'N Learn sessions has been "Travel the World" to prepare Markham employees for the athletes and public from around the world who will attend the Pan Am Games in summer 2015.

### **6. Race Relations Business**

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

Astra Josie Rose reported that the Committee still needs to find an emcee for the event. Committee members discussed various options for emcee including asking Duane "D.O." Gibson, asking Shaun Boothe although this would result in him providing a shortened keynote speech, and asking Committee members and local children. It was agreed to ask Duane "D.O." Gibson; Astra Josie Rose agreed to contact him to confirm his availability.

Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator, mentioned that it would be necessary to begin advertising of the event. She advised that she will send a "Save the Date" notice to Markham Council members and School Trustees.

The Committee discussed the program. Astra Josie Rose reported that Enzo Greco, Rental and Events Coordinator, Markham Museum, had recommended a number of possible acts for the Many Faces of Markham program; she will send the information about these acts to Committee members. Dr. Maggie Quirt reported that she and Bobbie France had investigated the possibility of having speakers from the Aboriginal Center and York University; unfortunately, there was little interest. The Committee agreed that it would be ideal to have an aboriginal speaker or an aboriginal group to start the program. Cheryl McConney-Wilson will send this information to her contacts. Jacqueline Sang suggested that school music teachers be approached for possible music for the program; Astra Josie Rose will investigate.

#### **B) Committee Work Plan**

It was reported that the Committee Work Plan (version 5.0) was approved at the November 2014 meeting and that additional projects may be added in the future.

**C) Community Consultation Roundtable**

Dr. Maggie Quirt distributed and reviewed the Community Roundtable Discussion Summary. Committee members advised that, to have the opportunity to discuss relevant issues and brainstorm ideas to combat them, was very inspiring. Participants indicated they were happy to be consulted and were eager to share their thoughts. It was noted that discussions involved a number of broad topic areas such as schools, housing, poverty, employment issues, and city programs. Discussions also focussed on possible next steps including asking York Region District School Board to study the demographics of its students and release the results to better inform curriculum and fill gaps in service. It was noted that Committee may also gather data to identify gaps and make recommendations to Markham Council. The Committee will discuss possible action items at the next meeting in January 2015. Dr. Maggie Quirt will then finalize the summary by adding themes and action plans. The Committee will advise the participants that it is consolidating the information and ideas presented at the Roundtable and would appreciate knowing what information would be helpful to them. Attendees had expressed the request for future Roundtables to discuss other topics such as career focus for youth and employee engagement; it may be possible to work with the Mayor's Youth Task Force on such issues. There may be potential to work with other Markham committees to resolve issues.

**D) CMARD Update: Open: 3Q10**

No update was available.

**7. New Business**

- It was reported that Bobbie France had gathered information about a “Taste of Markham” event and suggested scheduling it in conjunction with the timing of the Pan Am Games; it may be possible to obtain funding from the Pan Am Games. It was suggested that the Committee could partner with the Mayor's Youth Task Force and that Matt Vetere, Markham Finance, may be able to provide information about the process to approve food booths. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting in January 2015.
- It was noted that December 10 is Human Rights Day. Chair Darius Sookram will send a message to all Markham Council members.

**7. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, January 5, 2015 in the Ontario Room at 7:00 PM.

**8. Adjournment**

It was

Moved by            Rina George-Alexander  
Seconded by        Ramon Solis

That the Race Relations Committee adjourn at 8:50 PM.

CARRIED