



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

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

October 6, 2014

7:00 PM

MINUTES

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

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair introduced the substitute Committee Clerk, and welcomed everyone to "October".

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. Approval of the Minutes

An amendment was made to Item # 6. The first bullet should read “Dr. Maggie Quirt advised that anti-Semitic graffiti has been noted in Thornhill.”

It was

Moved by Ramon Solis
Seconded by Grace Permaul

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on September 8, 2014 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Markham Human Resources Update

Cheryl McConney-Wilson provided updates on various projects and initiatives of the City of Markham.

Diversity Action Plan Update: Once mandatory diversity training is completed for the City of Markham staff, the City will be looking to reach out farther into the community with mini-seminars, etc. This will occur after the election being held on October 27, 2014.

York Region is planning a series of diversity dialogues in January 2015, in coordination with this committee and other municipalities, and will include discussions on a region-wide charter or framework. Markham’s Community Roundtable in November will provide feedback to the Region.

The Region is working on providing resource information for the community on their website

Community Engagement: Several Committee members have submitted suggestions for community engagement.

Municipal Election: The municipal election will be held on October 27, 2014. Information on accessibility and diversity (language options) is available on the City and Regional websites.

5. Race Relations Business

A) Many Faces of Markham

An update was provided.

- Packages have been sent out to Schools (Public, Catholic, Private, and some art schools). Committee members were asked to contact schools they are connected with to confirm the packages have been delivered. If not, contact Astra Josie Rose, Rina George-Alexander, or Laura Gold.

- Vince has agreed to be the Stage Manager again this year
- Information is up on the website ([Many Faces of Markham](#))

The Committee needs to decide on the Master of Ceremonies (MC) and quest speaker. Lily Singh, aka “Superwoman”, a Markham resident, had been suggested as MC, however she is a busy person and has not responded yet. A Committee member will try to contact her again.

Suggestions for guest speaker included a Pan-Am related athlete, or an Aboriginal representative. Several names were suggested, and the Chair advised that he would e-mail out for any recommendations. An Aboriginal speaker would tie into the initiative and provide a broad indigenous theme. In response to questions concerning the pay for guest speakers, it was confirmed that last year’s speaker received an honourarium, which was donated to the speaker’s organization.

With respect to entertainment performers for the event, it was noted that efforts should be made to ensure there is a wider variety of performers, not just representatives of two of the major groups, as in the past year. Letters have been sent out, so we need to use our contacts to help bring in more groups in for auditions.

B) Committee Work Plan

There was no discussion on this item.

C) Community Consultation Roundtable

The date was confirmed as Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, at the Civic Centre.

Astra Josie Rose has the invitation list for speakers, the letter of invitation, and the poster, which have been approved by the City. They will be circulated to the committee members for comment. The list includes schools, the police department, and representatives of cultural groups, etc.

The Community Roundtable can be considered a pilot project to create a benchmark, or a platform for future discussions.

D) CMARD Update: Open: 3Q10

Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination

The community roundtable will provide good input for CMARD.

Representatives of Markham’s Public Realm Advisory Committee will be attending the next Race Relations Committee meeting. The community roundtable will provide feedback to assist the Public Realm group and to avoid duplication of effort as well as over-use of stakeholder input. It is assumed that the York Region dialogue would be the primary draw for participants.

6. New Business

- A)** Dr. Maggie Quirt discussed aboriginal issues and recommended the Committee make a statement about these issues. It was suggested that the Committee target National Aboriginal Day in June, 2015, which would provide time to plan any action.
- B)** A “Taste of Markham” event was proposed for June, 2015, similar to Taste of Asia and Taste of the Danforth. The food could represent the different cultures. Bobbie France and Carla Crooks will get more information and report back.

C) Information Sharing

There was no discussion on this item.

D) Promotional Materials

There was no discussion on this item.

E) Closing the Name Discussion

It was
Moved by Moises Calo
Seconded by Dr. Maggie Quirt

Whereas the Council of the Town of Markham established the advisory committee named “Committee on Race and Ethnocultural Equity of Markham” on September 27, 1988; and,

Whereas the Council of the Town of Markham amended the advisory committee name to “The Town of Markham Race Relations Committee” in November 1996, at the request of the Committee, and,

Whereas the current committee has undertaken a review of the name to recognize the changing community of cultural diversity:

Now Therefore, be it Resolved:

That the Markham Race Relations Committee confirms that the current name of the committee is appropriate and that there is no desire to change the name at this time.

CARRIED

F) Terms of Appointment

The Committee was advised that the terms of following members will expire on November 30, 2014:

Carla Crooks
Bobbie France
Darius Sookram

The Clerk will confirm the terms at the next meeting. Members can apply for two consecutive terms. The terms are generally extended until the new appointments are made, and as this is an election year the appointments may not be made until well into 2015.

G) Elections

Members were requested to consider putting their names forward for Chair and Vice Chair at the upcoming elections.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on Monday, November 3, 2014 in the Ontario Room.

8. Adjournment

It was
Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Saad Omar Khan

That the Race Relations Committee adjourn at 7:50 PM.

CARRIED