



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

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

April 7, 2014

7:00pm

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Rina George-Alexander Moises Calo Bobbie France Saad Omar Khan Dr. Maggie Quirt Grace Permaul</p> <p><u>Council</u> Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Osman Akhtar Carla Crooks Jacqueline Sang Ramon Solis Barbara Tate</p>
--	--

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:00 p.m. with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair.

1. Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair congratulated the Committee on the 2014 Many Faces of Markham event.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Saad Omar Khan

Seconded by Moises Calo

That the March 3, 2014 Race Relations Committee Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Markham Human Resources update

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist provided the following Human Resources Update:

- Demographic data by ward will be placed on the website;
- Markham staff are currently receiving Diversity and Inclusion Training;
- Markham Public Library is currently piloting a project, which helps with the pronunciation of names;
- Cards with recipes of food from diverse cultures from Markham Museum were displayed to the Committee.

4. Race Relations Business

A. Survey

The Chair advised that 11 Committee Members responded to the committee survey, noting that responses are anonymous. The survey questions were on the following matters: (1) changing the committee's name; (2) the Many Faces of Markham Event; and (3) ideas the committee can pursue. Committee Members that have yet to respond to the survey must do so by the end of the week. The results will be presented at the next meeting.

B. Many Faces of Markham

The Committee discussed the 2014 Many Faces of Markham event and provided the following suggestions for next year:

- Increase the public school participation rate for next year's event;
- Promote the event to the public schools through the Parent Advisory Committee, Principal Meetings and the School Board Equity Committee;
- Improve the quality of the performances;
- Invite special needs students to participate in the contest;
- Meet over the summer as a Sub-Committee to plan the event;
- Have the event undertaking and planning done by the Sub-Committee;

- Send packages out to schools in September to encourage greater public school participation;
- Liaison with other City Committees to promote the event;
- Promote the event through Markham clubs and after school program to broaden the pool of contest participants;
- Consider amending the Terms of Reference to include a School Trustee to obtain more input from the School Board on the event execution;
- Ask performers that performed at the York Region Police Diversity event to perform at next year's Many Faces of Markham event;
- Pick a theme for next year's event that fits into the York Region School Board curriculum;
- Limit the Committee time spent on the undertaking of the event, so that the Committee can focus on other initiatives;
- Monitor what schools are not participating in the contest;
- Consider inviting the School Board to participate in the planning and undertaking of the event;
- Contact the Superintendent of Equity for York Region School Board to advise him or her about the event.

C. Work Plan

The Committee discussed the following initiatives it could include in its 2014/2015 work plan:

- Hold a roundtable symposium with different cultural group in Markham to identify cultural challenges/issues and present a report to Council;
- Create a brochure for the Committee, similar to the York Region Police's Equity Diversity Committee Flyer circulated to the Committee;
- Host a Taste of Markham event
- Provide diversity training/workshops to the public
- Host a CMARD Conference
- Develop a tool that residents can use to respond to racism in their community

It was noted that the goals and objectives included in the Race Relations Committee work plan should be linked to CMARD. They should also be realistic and attainable.

5. Adjournment

The Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:33 p.m.