



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

Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

February 3, 2014, 7:00 pm

MINUTES

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

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:06 p.m. with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair. He welcomed new members and introductions were performed.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was

Moved by: Ramon Solis
Seconded by: Bobbie France

That the agenda be accepted as distributed

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

It was

Moved by: Moises Calo
Seconded by: Astra Josie Rose

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on January 6, 2014 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. RACE RELATIONS BUSINESS

A. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM

Organized by the Race Relations Committee, the Many Faces of Markham event is an annual celebration featuring an art and video competition for students across Markham as well as a show featuring local performers and the competition winners. The theme for the 2014 Concert is "Journey to Markham: *Past, Present and Future*".

It was reported that auditions for the show will take place on Wednesday February 5, 2014 and judging for the Many Faces of Markham Event will be held in the Canada Room on Sunday, February 9, 2014 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bernice Carnegie from the Future Aces Foundation has agreed to be the 2014 Many Faces of Markham keynote speaker. She will provide a meaningful multimedia presentation that will appeal to both youth and adults.

5. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Ms. Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, reported on initiatives planned for February:

1. Black History Month

This event will be held on Monday, February 10, 2014 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Council Chamber at the Markham Civic Centre, Live Entertainment will feature artist Dwayne Morgan speaking about Nelson Mandela, and musical and dramatic performances by Markham and York Region students.

2. Building Markham's Future Together

Markham Council champions seven priorities as part of *Building Markham's Future Together*, the long-term strategic plan developed based on input received from residents and people who work in Markham. Displays about the strategic plan, including pictures of Markham's diversity, diversity tools, and demographic fact sheets, will be on display on Thursday, February 27 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

Ms. McConney-Wilson also reported on Lunch 'N Learn initiatives for Markham staff including how Abrahamic religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam treat matters relating to death and dying. Other recent sessions offered insights into issues relating to Autism, Transcommunity, and the Hindu religion.

Ms. McConney-Wilson reported that Markham's Human Resources department will be giving presentations to assist newcomers with recruitment and job search.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Name Discussion

Chair Darius Sookram reviewed previous discussions relating to the possibility of changing the committee's name. Committee discussion focussed on whether to include the word "race" or "diversity" in the name of the Committee. It was thought that the name should be tied to the mandate of the Committee, to give others a clear idea of the mandate, and to be positive and inclusive. Committee members suggested Race Relations and Engagement Committee, International Harmony Committee and, Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee. It was suggested that an original member of the Committee be invited to a future meeting to discuss thoughts about the Committee name. Another discussion to consider possible names will be scheduled for the next meeting.

B. Race Relations Committee Work Plan

Chair Darius Sookram advised that the Race Relations Committee Work Plan 2013 had been distributed to Committee members. It will be updated to include initiatives for 2014.

C. Information Sharing

CFMS-FM is a new FM radio station that broadcasts as "105.9 The Region", transmitting from Markham. The station broadcasts adult album alternative and adult contemporary format in English, as well as multilingual ethnic programming directed to a minimum of five ethnic groups in a minimum of 9 languages, including Tamil, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Urdu, Hindi, and Punjabi. The station would welcome input from Markham's committees. It was noted that Channel 63 is another platform for the Committee to promote its mandate and initiatives.

A Provincial by-election in the Thornhill riding will be held Thursday, February 13, 2014.

Committee members affected by the December ice storm spoke highly of the efforts of Markham staff who did their utmost to make experiences at warming centres as pleasant as possible.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee is scheduled for March 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by	Astra Josie Rose
Seconded by	Saad Omar Khan

That the Race Relations Committee meeting adjourn at 8:25 PM.

CARRIED