



**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE
CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
November 4, 2013, 7:00pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Committee</u> Darius Sookram, Chair Carla Crooks Bobbie France Vilvan Gunasingham Saad Omar Khan Ramon Solis Barbara Tate <u>Council</u> Councillor Logan Kanapathi <u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator	<u>Regrets</u> Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Alan Ho Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair Rina George-Alexander Moises Calo Si Ming (Steven) Lu Ramon Solis Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources
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1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:01 p.m. with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with one addition:

- CMARD Conference Update was added under New Business

It was requested that the following items be regularly included on future Race Relation Committee Agendas:

Race Relations Business

- CMARD Update: Open: 3Q10

Markham Human Resources Update

- Diversity Action Plan Update: Launched; 2Q10

3. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2013.

Moved by: Bobbie France
Seconded by: Ramon Solis

That the minutes of the Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on October 7, 2013 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. RACE RELATIONS BUSINESS

A. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM

The Committee discussed possible themes for the 2014 Many Faces of Markham Event. The themes suggested included the following:

- Markham Strong
- Taste of Markham
- Experience Markham
- Markham Past, Present and Future
- Markham Then and Now
- Strengthening and Enhancing Diversity
- Diversity, Yours to Enjoy
- Markham, Yours to Discover
- Journey to Markham: *Past, Present and Future(in small letters)*

The Committee agreed to the following theme for the 2014 Many Faces of Markham Concert: **Journey to Markham: *Past, Present and Future (in small letters)***. It was requested that Corporate Communications develop a poster representing the 2014 Many Faces of Markham theme.

The critical path for the 2013 Many Faces of Markham event was circulated to the Committee for information purposes. The document will be updated and circulated to the Committee by email.

A suggestion was made to videotape the 2014 Many Faces of Markham event.

B. Race Relations Committee Work Plan 2013

The Chair is in the process of updating the Work Pan.

5. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Ms. Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist reported that there was an article published in The Globe and Mail regarding Markham's diversity. The article was well received. A copy of the article will be circulated to the Committee for information purposes.

The City is in the process of developing a procurement policy that makes a commitment to having diverse suppliers. An example of what may be included in the proposed policy includes looking at organizations diversity policies when awarding contracts.

The Committee was requested to review the CMARD toolkit and provide feedback to the Diversity Specialist by Friday, November 8, 2013. A hardcopy of the toolkit was displayed to the Committee and a link to the electronic version of the toolkit will be circulated to the Committee.

A Member suggested that: (1) information on the number cities that have joined CMARD be included in the toolkit; and (2) the format of the toolkit be simplified similar to the City of Burnaby's document on CMARD. Vilvan will circulate the City of Burnaby's document to the Committee.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. CMARD Conference Update

Vilvan Gunasingham presented the following research he gathered on holding a CMARD conference in Markham:

- Attendance at CMARD Conferences typically includes the Commissioner of Human Rights; representatives from CMARD; representatives from municipal diversity/race relations committees; community groups; and government representatives;
- Recent CMARD Conferences have been typically one day in length;
- The venue is often provided free of charge by a hotel;
- The budget of the Thunder Bay CMARD Conference was \$1,800 to \$2,000;
- Topics of discussion may include matters pertaining to human rights (e.g. affordable housing and human rights).

The Chair suggested that the Committee review the CMARD toolkit, as this may provide the Committee with a vision for a Markham CMARD Conference.

B. Information Sharing

No report was provided.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee is scheduled for December 2, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

8. ADJOURNMENT

That the Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:21p.m.