

MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2012
CITY OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
October 1, 2012, 7:00 pm

MINUTES

<p>Attendance:</p> <p><u>Committee</u></p> <p>Darius Sookram, Chair</p> <p>Moises Calo</p> <p>Samil Chagpar</p> <p>Bobbie France</p> <p>Saad Omar Khan</p> <p>Rina George-Alexander</p> <p>Barbara Tate</p> <p>Councillor Alan Ho</p> <p>Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p>Regional Councillor Joe Li</p> <p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources</p> <p>Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist</p> <p>Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Clerk</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u></p> <p>Carla Crooks</p> <p>Vilvan Gunasingham</p> <p>Astra Josie Rose, Vice Chair</p> <p>Liliana Soengas</p> <p>Ramon Solis</p>
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1. CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

The Race Relations Committee was called to order at 7:09 PM with Darius Sookram presiding as Chair.

2. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2012.

It was

Moved by Samil Chagpar
Seconded by Bobbie France

That the minutes of the Town of Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on September 10, 2012 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was

Moved by Samil Chagpar

Seconded by Bobbie France

That the Agenda be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

4. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

A. CMARD update; Open: 3Q10

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, reported that Markham has communicated with CMARD (Coalition of Municipalities against Race and Discrimination) regarding the possibility of Markham is holding the conference. CMARD has indicated that it may not be feasible for Markham to host the conference, but there may be opportunities to host other initiatives.

Cheryl McConney-Wilson will send Chair Darius Sookram what CMARD information she has. At the next meeting, the Race Relations Committee will discuss the possible need for a CMARD sub-committee.

B. Diversity Action Plan Update; Launched: 2Q10

Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, reported that Human Resources is developing diversity competencies and conducted focus groups to determine how Markham residents define being inclusive. Some comments included: "Don't treat me like a child.", "Don't assume I'm an immigrant." And "Walk the talk of the Accommodation Policy." Some Committee members took part in the focus groups; Darius Sookram, for one, found that the session he attended to be rewarding.

5. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM

Chair Darius Sookram advised the Committee that the annual Many Faces of Markham event recognizes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination March 21; the 2013 event will likely be scheduled for Saturday March 23. The event includes performances from various cultural groups and the presentation of certificates to the Many Faces of Markham art, writing and video contest winners. Students from public, separate and private schools in Markham participate in the contest.

Addendum: Chair Darius Sookram advised by email that **Many Faces of Markham: Celebrating our diverse city** will happen on **March 17, 2012**. He asked committee members to save the date and plan to attend.

A. Election of Chair or Co-Chairs

Liliana Soengas had indicated interest in this position; Chair Darius Sookram will confirm her interest.

B. Theme

The theme of the event is meant to support and embrace diversity and inclusiveness. Previous themes have included: "One World, One Family" and "Waving Flag". Chair Darius Sookram led Committee members in a brainstorming session select a theme for the 2013 event. Many themes were proposed; ultimately, three were considered: "Celebrating our diverse city", "Celebrating the road to diverscity", and "Diverscity". The Committee voted to select "Celebrating our diverse city" as the theme.

C. Keynote Speaker/Activity

Many Faces of Markham committee members were asked to think of potential keynote speakers. The Markham Theatre Manager may also offer recommendations.

D. Subcommittee

Samil Chagpar, Rina George-Alexander, Barbara Tate and Councillor Alan Ho agreed to serve on the subcommittee for this event. Chair Darius Sookram will also email other Committee members, not present at this meeting, to invite them to be part of the subcommittee.

Addendum: Chair Darius Sookram advised by email that the events subcommittee for Many Faces of Markham will be held at 5:30pm before the next Race Relations meeting on November 5, 2012.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

No report was available.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Regional Councillor Joe Li advised the Committee that York Regional Police Service Board will be hosting a session on "Hate Crimes" on **October 17, 2012 at 1:00pm** at the Regional Municipality of York Administrative Centre Committee Room A, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. Committee members were asked to r.s.v.p. to 905-830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675 ext. 7736.

Chair Darius Sookram reminded Committee members to inform the Chair and Committee Clerk if, for some reason, they are unable to attend a meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on November 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Samil Chagpar

Seconded by Saad Omar Khan

That the Race Relations Committee meeting adjourn at 8:30 PM.

CARRIED