

**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2012
TOWN OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
Tuesday, June 5, 2012, 7:00pm**

MINUTES

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

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:17 PM with Mr. Darius Sookram as Chair. The Chair welcomed members to the committee.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair announced that there are now three vacant positions on this committee and an opening for the position of Vice-Chair. Ms. Astra Josie Rose was the only member to declare her interest in the position of Vice-Chair and through a unanimous vote was elected Vice-Chair.

3. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON MAY 7, 2012.

Moved by Astra Josie Rose
Seconded by Ramon Solis

That the minutes of the Town of Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on May 7, 2012 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions were made to the agenda

5. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

A. Diversity Action Plan Update; Launched: 2Q10

Ms. Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, informed the committee that the Diversity Action Plan committee has recently created a South Asian Food Guide and a mentoring service program for new immigrants. Also, senior executives of the Town will receive a training session on Diversity as recommended in the plan, and this training session will include a presenter from Ryerson University discussing Race Relations and Leadership.

B. CMARD update; Open: 3Q10

The Town has informed Coalition of Municipalities against Racial Discrimination (CMARD) that Markham is interested in holding the next conference.

In regards to the guidelines outlined by CMARD, there are various actions this committee can take to enhance inclusions. Examples included discussing and countering commonly held rumours and using a Welcome Wagon to greet new immigrants to this committee. For more ideas, Ms. Wilson recommended two websites, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and a think tank called Metropolis.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Chair sent out an e-mail to invite all committee members to take part in Race Relations subcommittees. There will be two subcommittees: Event Planning and Work Plan. All members are requested to commit to one of the two subcommittees.

The Events committee will focus on the Many Faces of Markham event discussing ways to improve succession planning and learn from previous champions on how to plan this event. The Work Plan meeting will focus on creating the mandate of the Race Relations committee and these meetings can be assisted by Ms. Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resource, and Ms. Wilson.

The subcommittees will help determine the direction of the Race Relations committee. The Race Relations Committee is responsible for advising council on ethnocultural issues and guiding policy decisions. Thus, it is important for all members to educate themselves on the Diversity Action Plan, CMARD and conduct other research to provide well-informed recommendations. It is also important for

members to voice their expectations of this committee and determine whether their own expectations are being met.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The Race Relation Committee is pleased that the Town of Markham is becoming a city. Committee members also had high praise for Chair for his leadership and command.

A staff member from the Town of Markham discussed the efforts being made to make the town as accessible as possible. The Town will be holding an accessibility event at the Markham Civic Centre near the end of June.

A. Promotion of Race Relations

The Chair is in contact with the Town in regards to the banner and will inform the committee on any updates. The committee is interested in possibility of having a logo. Ms. Wilson will inquire whether there are any stimulations or limitations to creating a logo for this committee.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on September 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Liliana Soengas

Seconded by Astra Josie Rose

That the meeting of the Race Relations Committee adjourn at 8:37 PM.

CARRIED