

**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2012
TOWN OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
Monday, April 2, 2012, 7:00pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Committee</u> Ramon Solis Bobbie France Darius Sookram, Chair Vilvan Gunasingham Saad Omar Khan Councillor Logan Kanapathi Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Howard Shore <u>Staff</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Darshika Patel, Committee Clerk	<u>Regrets</u> Theresa Coulter, Vice-Chair Astra Josie Rose Rina George-Alexander Liliana Soengas Carla Crooks Si Ming (Steven) Lu
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:10 pm with Mr. Darius Sookram presiding as Chair. The Chair welcomed Detective Brett Kemp to the committee.

2. DETECTIVE BRETT KEMP

Detective Brett Kemp from York Region Police was in attendance to provide a presentation to the Race Relations Committee on hate crimes.

3. SHARK FIN SOUP

Mr. Kai Tao, Mr. Ben Leung, and Mr. Kenny Wan, representative from FARGA (Fair and Responsible Governance Alliance), addressed the Committee and spoke about shark fin soup. They informed the committee that there has been many misleading information presented in the media. Contrary to what was presented in the widespread YouTube clip, every part of the shark is consumed in the Chinese culture as there are many byproducts from the different parts of the shark. They believe municipalities should not be imposing a ban to shark fin soup as it is not in the municipalities' jurisdiction but the jurisdiction of the federal government.

The Chair thanked the delegates for their time and informed the Committee that Council has already made a stance on this issue.

4. ISRAELI APARTHEID INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION

Moved by Vilvan Gunasingham

Seconded by Logan Kanapathi

That there will be no discussion on this item throughout 2012.

CARRIED

5. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2012.

The Committee recommend changes and omissions to the minutes.

Moved by Vilvan Gunasingham

Seconded by Ramon Solis

That the Minutes of the Town of Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on March 3, 2012 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

6. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

A. Diversity Action Plan Update; Launched: 2Q10

Ms. Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, informed the committee that 39 recommendations are ongoing and that 19% of the recommendations have been completed. Some of the initiatives such as the internet site and Asian food guide are completed whereas other long-term goals such as the South Asian seniors' committee will be assessed on an ongoing basis. One of the deliverables on the action plan was a lecture series. A lectures series event was held last month where academics and news media discussed what diversity is in the media. The community was able to ask questions.

B. CMARD update; Open: 3Q10

The CMARD tool kit is now available online. As the Race Relations committee creates a work plan, members can further discuss whether they are interested in hosting an ongoing CMARD event. The committee can also look into creating a report card that incorporates the 3 major subgroups to determine whether CMARD commitments are being met. Also, in order to host a national CMARD conference, approval must be given by the General Committee.

7. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM EVENT

Ms. Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator, informed the committee that the Many Faces of Markham event was held in March and was successful.

8. FUTURE ROLE AND DIRECTION OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Ramon Solis will contact interested members to hold a Sub-Committee meeting to create a work plan and prepare a budget for this committee.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Shahenna Kharal is interested in discussing global ethics with the Committee. This presentation will be postponed until more information is provided on this topic.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on May 7, 2011 at 7:00pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Race Relations Committee adjourned at 9:30 pm.