

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

MINUTES

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

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:03 PM with Mr. Darius Sookram as Chair. The Chair welcomed members to the committee and thanked them for their time, contribution and effort to make race relations better.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair announced that Ms. Theresa Coulter has resigned from her position on this committee. As a result of Ms. Coulter's departure, there is now a vacancy in the position of Vice-Chair. The election of Vice Chair will be conducted in a democratic process and the Chair will send out an e-mail to all members with more detail.

The Chair reminded the committee members about the importance of attendance. Attendance will be important for this committee to achieve its mandate.

3. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON APRIL 2, 2012.

Moved by Astra Josie Rose
Seconded by Bobbie France

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

CARRIED

4. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Promotion of Race Relations be added under Other Business and the Sub-Committee Update be moved to item 5.

5. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

A. Budget Preparation

The Chair was informed that Mr. Ramon Solis was the only member present at the Budget Preparation subcommittee meeting. The Chair emphasized the importance of following up on commitments that members agreed upon. The Chair intends to hold a budget session this summer alongside other subcommittee meetings. Committee members will have the opportunity to decide on which subcommittee they would like to be a part of.

6. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

A. Diversity Action Plan Update; Launched: 2Q10

In April, Council received a presentation on the Diversity Action Plan and this presentation is available online. The presentation discussed statistics, population growth, recommendations, and purposes of the plan amongst other information regarding the Diversity Action Plan. Important commitments of this plan include internal training, communication and the importance of measuring success. The Diversity Action Plan committee provided their recommendations and asked for feedback from Council.

B. CMARD update; Open: 3Q10

The CMARD toolkit has been released and was e-mailed to all members. It is important that all members go through this toolkit as it will help provide direction when creating the committee's mandate and budget. This committee is interested in not only focusing on multiculturalism but also integration. This committee is also interested in creating a greater sense of public engagement by having members attend community events and convey any race relations issues back to this committee.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Promotion of Race Relations

The Race Relations committee is interested in having a portable roll-up banner to use for promotion. The committee will liaise with the Markham Communication Department to create the banner.

B. Speakers

The committee, while interested in speakers that may benefit the knowledge and understanding of race relations, is unable to facilitate speakers or presentations because it (at this point in time) deters from the agenda of setting and prioritizing the Race Relations mandate.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on June 4, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:00 PM.