

**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2012  
TOWN OF MARKHAM  
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre  
Monday, February 6, 2012, 7:15pm**

**MINUTES**

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

The organization committee met at 6:00pm and discussed plans and preparations for the Many Faces of Markham event.

**2. CHAIR OPENING REMARKS**

The Race Relations Committee convened at 7:15 PM with Theresa Coulter presiding as Chair.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2012.**

Moved by Darius Sookram  
Seconded by Astra Josie Rose

That the Minutes of the Town of Markham Race Relations Committee Meeting held on January 9, 2012 be adopted.

CARRIED

#### **4. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There was not changes or additions made to the agenda.

#### **5. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The committee discussed whether the position of Chair and Vice Chair should be voted annually in September. Traditionally, the Chair assumes this role until the end of his or her term. As terms for committee members are staggered, it may be best to have the Chair assume their role until the end of his or her term for continuity purposes. The committee will check with the Clerk's department on this matter and the following motion was proposed:

That the Chair will hold this position until September 2013, and thereafter the members of this committee will vote for this position annually, unless otherwise noted by Clerk's Department.

Moved by Liliana Soengas

Seconded by Councilor Alan Ho

**MOTION WAS NOT CARRIED**

Ms. Theresa Coulter and Mr. Darius Sookram expressed their interest in the position of Chair and provided a brief synopsis about themselves. After, committee members placed their votes and the result was a draw between the two candidates. The committee then gave the candidates the chance to deliberate amongst themselves to determine if they had a preference for position of Chair and Vice Chair. The decision that was made by the two candidates was that Ms. Coulter will continue her role as Chair until the end of this meeting and thereafter Mr. Sookram will assume the role of Chair and Ms. Coulter as Vice Chair.

#### **6. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**

Ms. Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, invited the committee to the Black History Month Celebration held by the Town of Markham on February 14, 2012 from 11:00am – 1:00pm in the Council Chamber. Mr. Sookram agreed to attend this event and say a few words on behalf of the Race Relations Committee.

##### **A. Diversity Action Plan Update; Launched: 2Q10**

The Town will hold a lecture on diversity with the focus on diversity in the media in March, a week after the Many Face of Markham event. This lecture will include a panel of journalists and academics and all community members will be encouraged to attend. Committee members that are interested in helping

out with the event should contact Ms. McConney-Wilson. An e-mail will be sent to all members with more information.

#### **7. MANY FACES OF MARKHAM EVENT**

The judging of the contests will take place this month. Ms. Coulter will send out the dates of the judging by e-mails and committee members should RVSP whether they will be able to attend or not attend that meeting.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Discuss Presentation by YR police.**

The Town has liaised with the York Regions police and can arrange to have a sergeant come and discuss hate crimes. Committee members expressed interest in having this presentation.

##### **B. Discussion on Time and Date of the Race Relations Committee**

Committee members inquired about the possibly of moving this committee meeting to Wednesday or Thursday evenings. The committee will check with the Clerk's Department to determine whether moving the Race Relations meetings to a different date is feasible before any further discussion on this matter takes place. The committee agreed that the next meeting should begin at 7:00pm.

#### **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on March 5, 2011 at 7:00pm.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Race Relations Committee adjourned at 8:50pm.