

**MEETING OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2012**  
**TOWN OF MARKHAM**  
**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre**  
**Monday, January 9, 2012, 7:00pm**

**MINUTES**

<b>Attendance:</b>	
<u>Committee</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Councillor L. Kanapathi Theresa Coulter, Chair Ramon Solis Hetal Damania Bobbie France Rina George-Alexander Astra Josie Rose Darius Sookram	Regional Councillor J. Li Councillor A. Ho Si Ming (Steven) Lu Liliana Soengas Carla Crooks Vilvan Gunasingham
<u>Staff</u> Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Darshika Patel, Committee Clerk	

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

**1. CHAIR OPENING REMARKS**

Ms. Theresa Coulter, Chair, welcomed the new members to the Race Relations Committee and provided a brief introduction on this committee.

**2. BOARD AND COMMITTEE ORIENTATION**

An orientation presentation was given by Ms. Laura Gold from the Town of Markham that outlined the rules and expectations of committee members and the mandate of this committee. Each member also received an orientation package. Ms. Gold asked each committee member to read over the Accessible Act, sign the form and to give the signed forms to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting. The Chair also requested that each member take time to read over the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) and the Diversity Action Plan documentations as they are important discussion topics.

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

Moved by Darius Sookram

Seconded by Astra Josie Rose

That the Election of the Chair and Vice Chair be moved as the next item on the Agenda.

CARRIED

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

The Committee decided to have this election for Chair and Vice Chair moved to next week as some committee members are not present at this meeting. Prior to the election, the current Chair will send an e-mail to all members requesting that interested members e-mail their interest alongside a short paragraph describing their background and why they are interested in this position.

Moved by Darius Sookram

Seconded by Rina George-Alexander

That the election of the Chair and Vice Chair be moved to next month's agenda.

CARRIED

### **5. MINUTES OF THE RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON MAY 9, JUNE 6 AND NOVEMBER 7, 2011.**

Moved by Darius Sookram

Seconded by Ramon Solis

That the May 9, June 6 and November 7 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

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

This year, due to low membership and a delay in the appointment of the new RRC members, the Town of Markham and past RRC members have commenced the planning of the Many Faces of Markham Event. New members should be advised that the expectation is that all committee members make effort to contribute to the event. Committee members are encouraged to attend the Many Faces Event meeting on Wednesday January 11th, 2011 from 4:30pm to 5:30pm in the Canada Room.

A brief synopsis of this event was given to new members. A concern with this event has been the lack of participation by public schools. A reason for this may be that many public school teachers receive numerous opportunities to take part in various initiatives throughout the school year. If this event does

not meet certain goals and objectives that the teacher needs to achieve, and if it is not part of the curriculum, the teacher may choose not to take part in this event. As this is not an event run by schools, event planners should look into advertising outside of schools. Although, there is much regard to increase the number of attendees from public school, it is important to note that this is a successful event where tickets sell out each year. If this committee further promotes this event, we would need a bigger venue and would require more preparation time. Thus, the Race Relations committee must decide first whether it is an event that the committee would like to organize. For this reason, this discussion topic will remain on the agenda.

#### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

The committee agreed that the time and date of the Race Relations Committee will be open for discussion during the next meeting and should be included in next month's agenda.

#### **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on February 6, 2011.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The sixteenth meeting of the Race Relations Committee adjourned at 10:50pm.