

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2011
TOWN OF MARKHAM
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre
Monday, June 6, 2011 - 7:15 p.m.**

AGENDA

MINUTES

<u>Attendance:</u>	
<u>Committee</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Theresa Coulter, Chair Winnie Wales, Vice Chair Prashanth Srichandramohan Darius Sookram Carla Crooks Vilvan Gunasingham	Councillor Logan Kanapathi Councillor Joe Li Councillor Alan Ho Liliana Soengas
<u>Staff:</u> Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist Laura Gold, Committee Clerk Darshika Patel, Committee Clerk	

The fifteenth meeting of the Race Relations Committee convened at 7:15 p.m. with Ms. Theresa Coulter presiding as Chair.

1. CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

2. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 9, 2011.

Moved by: Vilvan Gunasingham

Seconded by: Darius Sookram

THE TOWN OF MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON MAY 9, 2011 BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was requested that the IIFA Markham South Asian Mela be added to the agenda.

4. MARKHAM HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

A. Diversity Action Plan Update; Launched: 2Q10

Ms. Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Diversity Specialist, mentioned that the Diversity Action Plan committee is looking for ways to tick off recommendations that are being met. There are recommendations that can be currently ticked off but the concern is whether the item should be ticked off completely or should the committee look at how the recommendation can be applied in other ways. The committee came up with 3 tiers of framework to determine if recommendations are being met. There will be a short version, long version and monthly updates.

5. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

No new updates.

6. PENDING ITEMS

A. Race Relations Committee New Member Recruitment; Open: 1Q11

Ms. Laura Gold, Committee Clerk, informed the committee that the initial recruitment process, the selection of applicants for an interview, has been completed. The new appointment committee consists of the Mayor and the Regional Councillors. It will take three to meet quorum. Current Race Relations committee members may be interviewed if there are not enough vacancies to ensure fairness between new and old applicants.

There has been no changes made to the prerequisites of new applicants as the term of reference and mandate remains the same. If there are changes to be made to the terms of reference, it must go to council for approval. The job descriptions are based on the terms of reference. It is yet to be determined whether the job descriptions created by this committee will go for review and will be taken into consideration at the interviews. This will be sent to the appointment committee to decide.

Generally, the recruitment and preliminary review process went well. The diversity information was collected with the applications.

B. Request to Hold CMARD Conference in Markham; Open: 3Q10

There was no report provided.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Communication (Race Relations Committee and Town of Markham)

The Clerk's Office advised the committee that minutes should be neutral and objective. This includes not using names in the discussion section of the minutes. Thus moving forward, the minutes for this committee will be formatted in the aforementioned manner.

To better improve communications between the Race Relations Committee and the Town of Markham, it was suggested that action items be noted on the minutes and brought to the Clerk's Office's attention. The Clerk's Office will attempt to send out agenda items in advance so committee member can be better prepared for the meetings. Furthermore, committee members can also scan agendas and minutes on the Town's website to determine whether there are items that may be of interest to this committee.

It was noted that the Race Relations Committee is open for the public to attend. Members from the public may request to make a deputation on an agenda item and are permitted to speak up to five (5) minutes on the item. Committee discussion should be limited to Committee Members.

The Race Relations committee exists to make recommendations and advise council according to the mandate stated in the terms of reference, It was noted that this year had been a learning opportunity for this committee and with this experience and knowledge, this committee will be better prepared to deal with similar issues in the future.

B. IIFA Markham South Asian Mela

It was reported that the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Markham South Asian Mela will be taking place on June 11 from 4pm to 8pm at Featherstone Park. This is a buzz event, intended to create buzz for the IFFA awards. It was recommended that booth be set up to promote this committee.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Race Relations Committee will be held on September 5, 2011 at 7:15 p.m.