

Minutes

Thursday, October 03, 2019

Ante Room, City Hall at 5

Attendance:

Rashmi Biswas
Samah Marei
Rhiannon McRae
Kim Radersma
Fatima Sheikh
Stanley Sadava
Vicki-Lynn Smith (Vice-Chair)
Saleh Waziruddin (Chair)

Absent:

Hanan Awadh

Staff Liaison:

Cindy Pfeffer

1. Call meeting to order

S. Waziruddin called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

3. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

S. Waziruddin requested an item, Increased Police Presence Downtown, related to the recent shooting in the area, be added to the agenda.

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by: S. Marei

That the amended agenda of the Oct. 3, 2019 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED AS AMMENDED

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved by: V. Smith

That the minutes of the Sept. 12, 2019 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

6. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Work Planning Discussion

C. Pfeffer lead the group through an exercise to help establish a vision and goals of the committee. S. Marei will work to create a vision statement for the committee based on the content. C. Pfeffer will record items discussed and share with committee in advance of the next meeting, when the discussion will continue.

8. Business arising from the minutes

8.1. Meeting Dates

A list of meeting dates based on a decision at the previous meeting to meet on the first Thursday of each month. Committee members are to review and provide feedback on the dates.

8.2. Communication

To avoid overwhelming committee members with emails, S. Waziruddin requested that committee members wishing to share information, articles and documents not directly related to committee business, but related to anti-racism work in general, be sent to the Staff Liaison, who will distribute to the committee.

9. Business

9.1. Ontario Treaties Recognition Week

S. Waziruddin shared that Ontario Treaties Recognition Week, which honours the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships, is the first week of November. The Mayor's Office and City Council are working with the Niagara Regional Native Centre on how to recognize the occasion.

9.2. Treaty Hunt at Short Hills Provincial Park

V. Smith encouraged members of the committee to attend the workshops being held as part of the Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt Conference on Nov. 16 at Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts. The event is held to coincide with the Treaty Hunt at Short Hills and is intended to counter anti-hunt protesters.

9.3. Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities

With the recent vote by Niagara regional council to pursue membership in the Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities, members discussed whether the City of Catharines should pursue membership in the organization also.

Moved by: Kim Radersma

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee endorse an effort to explore the City of St. Catharines joining the Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities, in co-ordination with the City's Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee; and

That the vice-chair of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee bring this motion forward at the next Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for discussion.

CARRIED

9.4. Self-Identification of City Staff and Committee members

C. Pfeffer informed the committee that the Office of the City Clerk collects self-identification data on individuals who apply to serve on City committees. Clerk's staff will be consulting with members of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee in an effort to increase the diversity of member working on City committees. As part of that discussion, the information collected will be shared with the committee.

In relation to the self-identification of City staff, C. Pfeffer will provide the committee with information on the diversity of City staff collected as part of a Corporation-wide survey.

9.5. Response to Racist Event and Graffiti in the Community

Members discussed a recent situation where racist graffiti was discovered on a fence belonging to a resident.

There was consensus from members that the City should consider a response protocol for racist events and graffiti, including adopting a policy to immediately remove racist graffiti on private property within 24 hours. This idea will be considered as part of the work planning discussion, which will continue at the next meeting.

9.6. Increased Police Presence Downtown

S. Wazziruddin explained that City Council has requested increased police foot patrols downtown in response to a recent shooting. Members expressed concerns that the increased police presence may be intimidating to racialized people, and have an unintended impact of deterring people away from the City's core. Members also questions the benefit of additional foot patrols, given the Niagara Regional Police stated that there were foot patrols in the area

immediately before the shooting.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019

11. Motion to Adjourn

F. Sheikh moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.