

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, November 07, 2019

Ante Room, City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Members:

Hanan Awadh
Rashmi Biswas
Samah Marei (arrived after 6 p.m.)
Rhiannon McRae
Kim Radersma

Stanley Sadava
Fatima Sheikh
Vicki-Lynn Smith (Vice-Chair)
Saleh Waziruddin (Chair)

Staff Liaison:

Cindy Pfeffer, Organizational Development Consultant

1. **Call meeting to order**
S. Waziruddin called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.
2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**
S. Waziruddin read the recognition of traditional territories to start the meeting.
3. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
V. Smith requested an item on a upcoming fundraising concert be added to the agenda.
4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: F. Sheik
That the agenda of the Nov. 7, 2019 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried as amended.
5. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by: Vicky-Lynn
That the minutes of the Oct. 3, 2019 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

6. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

7. **Work Planning**

This discussion took place following the business portion of the meeting to accommodate the late arrival of S. Marei.

7.1. Review Vision Statement

S. Marei presented two versions of a draft vision statement. The committee provided feedback on how to amend the statement, including ensuring it is as shorter statement and that it make specific reference to an absence of racism. S. Marei will provide a revised vision statement for the next meeting.

7.2. Discussion RE: committee initiatives/projects

The group continued the discussion related to the committee's work plan and priorities. The discussion was initially started at the October meeting. It is expected it will be concluded at the December meeting.

Business arising from the minutes

Short Hills Treaty Hunt

S. Waziruddin provided an update on the Treaty Hunt at Short Hills. Mayor Sendzik has sent a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, saying the City supports the hunt. The police will be investigating recent online racist posts related to the hunt. Mayor Sendzik will also be opening Indigenous Right Conference at Brock University's Marilyn I Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts later in November.

Meeting Schedule

January meeting will be moved to Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m.

8. **Business**

8.1. Anti-Stigma/Anti-Racism Campaign

S. Waziruddin informed the committee about a regional effort to launch a region-wide anti-racism campaign. The initiatives will be lead by settlement agencies and the Niagara Region Public Health. It will focus on newcomers.

8.2. Niagara District Council of Women Forum

As Chair of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, S. Waziruddin will speak on behalf of the committee at the upcoming Niagara Council of Women forum on racism.

8.3. Fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation

V. Smith shared with the committee details on a fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation on Nov. 23 at Silver Spire Church, called Despair to Hope – The Power of Human Connection. Anyone interested in tickets can purchase them from her.

9. **Updates**

9.1. Social Sustainability Committee

S. Waziruddin reported that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and two other committees will present their work plans for review and feedback at the January meeting of the Social Sustainability Committee.

9.2. Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

V. Smith reported that the Equity and Inclusion Committee has completed its work plan, which includes training for staff, and dependent care for individuals service on City committees. As the discussion on the work plan ran long, she was not able to address the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee's resolution related to pursuing membership in the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

In addition to establishing the work plan, the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee received a citizen request to have the City lower its flags honour Harriet Tubman on March 10, which is the anniversary of her death. Members expressed concern that this issue was not initially referred to the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee. V. Smith said she would request that matter be referred to the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee.

S. Waziruddin, said there seems to be an impression by some that the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee is a gatekeeper for the Anti-Racism and LGBTQ2+ committees, or somehow oversees the work of the other committees.

H. Awadh commented that by having members of the Anti-Racism and LGBTQ committees sit on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, gives the impression that it oversees the work of the of the other two.

S. Sadava suggested to avoid this impression, that each of the committees should have representation on each of the other committees, to improve communication and reduce overlap.

S. Waziruddin will reach out to the chair and vice chairs of the Equity and Inclusion and LGBTQ2+ to discuss options. C. Pfeffer will reach out to Clerk's Office to see how items/issues get directed to the appropriate committee.

10. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday, December 05, 2019

11. **Motion to Adjourn**

F. Sheikh moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.