

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, October 07, 2020

Via Zoom at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Rashmi Biswas
Rhiannon McRae
Stanley Sadava
Saleh Waziruddin (Chair)
Erica Williams

Absent:

Hanan Awadh
Samah Marei
Fatima Sheikh
Vicki-Lynn Smith (Vice-Chair)

Staff Liaison:

Cindy Pfeffer, Organizational Development Consultant

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

5:38 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

S. Waziruddin acknowledged that the land on which the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

None

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by: R. Biswas

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the Oct. 7, 2020, meeting agenda.

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

S. Waziruddin asked that the minutes be amended to indicate that he introduced item 8.1.

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the Aug. 31, 2020 meeting.

Carried as amended

6. Declarations of Interest

None

7. Business arising from the minutes

7.1. Facer St. Banner Resolution

C. Pfeffer reported that the ARAC resolution on this matter has been shared with the relevant City staff members. No response has been received at this time.

7.2. Feedback on Economic Recovery Plan

Members of the committee discussed ways the City of St. Catharines economic recovery plan could support the economic recovery of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) individuals.

Suggestions included:

- Collection of disaggregated data to better understand the impacts of the pandemic on different segments of the population. In cases where the data is not collected by the City, City Council should request disaggregated data from others.
- Actively seek to include black-owned business in Business to Business networking opportunities by expanding beyond the local chambers of commerce and connecting with organizations such as Black Owned 905.
- Organize information sessions / webinars with MP Chris Bittle to inform local black entrepreneurs about the Federal government support programs.

- Programs to promote Black-owned businesses and mentorship opportunities for Black entrepreneurs.

8. Business

8.1. Updates from chair on correspondence with Niagara Falls, Niagara on the Lake regarding committees

S. Waziruddin reported he was asked, in his role as Chair, to provide a letter regarding the benefit of Anti-Racism committee for Niagara Falls. He also reported that Niagara-on-the Lake is expanding its inclusivity committee and that he shared the ARAC work plan for reference.

8.2. Supporting St. Catharines as a member of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

R. Biswas asked the committee to consider how it can align its work to support the City of St. Catharines' and the Niagara Region's recent membership in the United Nations' Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

S. Waziruddin suggested the committee could map its workplan to the city's commitments that are part of its signing on to the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and can then identify any gaps.

In the meantime, the committee is available to staff engaged in work as part of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities membership.

8.3. Resolution recommending City Council support 1492LandBackLane

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

WHEREAS Six Nations land defenders are protecting their treaty-based rights from development proceeding without a negotiated settlement of claims and meaningful consultation

WHEREAS the City of St. Catharines has recognized its municipal responsibilities and roles under the Calls to Action of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission

WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police have arrested a researcher and a St. Catharines-based journalist merely for their activities covering the dispute

WHEREAS the mayor and council in neighboring Haldimand have issued a statement advocating police action instead of negotiations, and the Haldimand

County Police Services Board has likened the land defenders to terrorists, which is a dangerous escalation considering past history such as the Ipperwash Crisis where Dudley George was killed by police

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the anti-racism advisory committee recommends that City Council send a message to the Ontario and Haldimand County governments and the Haldimand County Police Services Board that police should not be used to escalate the conflict and instead nation to nation negotiations and meaningful consultations should be used to settle all claims

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the anti-racism advisory committee recommends that City Council request Regional Council of the Municipality of Niagara and the Niagara Region Police Services Board to do the same in order to fulfill their roles as municipal government bodies that have responsibilities and roles under the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

8.4. Work Plan Updates

8.4.1. Community Survey and Reporting Channels

S. Waziruddin shared draft questions developed based on a survey conducted in Hamilton. He requested feedback be shared with him before Oct. 14, 2020.

8.4.2. Racist & Hate Incident Response Protocol

C. Pfeffer reported this item has been shared with Equity and Inclusion and LGBTQ2+ advisory committees for comment.

8.4.3. Diverse Supplier Policy

C. Pfeffer reported this item has been shared with Equity and Inclusion and LGBTQ2+ advisory committees for comment.

8.4.4. Outreach to anti-racism organizations

S. Waziruddin reported he provided a list of Anti-Racism organizations to the committee members working on outreach. No other update was available as the members responsible were not in attendance at the meeting.

8.4.5. Anti-Racism Advisory Committee outreach flier / poster

C. Pfeffer reported she has connected the committee members working on this item with members of the City's Corporate Communication staff, who will assist with design and sharing of information via social media.

9. Date of next meeting

November 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

10. Motion to Adjourn