

Minutes

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Via Zoom at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor Bill Phillips, Chair
Councillor Greg Miller
Councillor Sal Sorrento
Jeanette Pillitteri, Director of Corporate Support Services
Brody Longmuir, Chair, Town & Gown Advisory Committee
Haley Bateman, Chair, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Committee
Gail Riihimaki, Vice-Chair, Older Adults Advisory Committee
Jim Richardson, Chair, Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee
Liam Coward, Chair, LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee
Michelle Sanders, Co-Chair Accessibility Advisory Committee
Saleh Waziruddin, Chair, Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

Guests:

Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk
Lori Mambella, Manager of Programs and Cultural Services

Staff Liaisons:

Chantal Switzer, LGBTQ2+ Advisory and Anti-Racism Advisory
Eric Lamothe, Recreation Master Plan Advisory
Koby Vanyo, Older Adults Advisory
Megan Detlor, Accessibility Advisory
Melissa Wenzler, Equity and Inclusion Advisory
Leanne Kurek, Social Pillar

Absent:

Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Cultural Services
Karen Doyle, Town and Gown Advisory Committee

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1. **Call meeting to order (Councillor Bill Phillips, Chair)**
4:32 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Councillor Phillips acknowledged that the land on which the Social Sustainability 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. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

Addition: Introductions:

- Liam Coward, Chair for LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee
- Chantal Switzer, staff liaison for LGBTQ2+ Advisory & Anti-Racism Advisory Committees

4. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Social Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as amended.

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Motion to adopt the SSC minutes, Dec 9, 2020.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

6. Presentations (invited guests)

NA

7. Business arising from the minutes

NA

8. Business

8.1 Review of applications for Accessibility Advisory (vacancies) and make recommendations.

Motion to go In Camera at 4:36 p.m.

That the Social Sustainability Committee go In Camera for personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

In Camera ~ Review applications for the Accessibility Advisory Committee (vacancies)

Motion to move to Open Session at 4:45 p.m.

That the Social Sustainability Committee move to Open Session

Moved by B. Longmuir

Carried

That the Social Sustainability Committee approve the recommended names for the Accessibility Advisory Committee as discussed in the In Camera Session and for the recommendations to be referred to council.

Moved by J. Richardson

Carried

8.2 Anti-Racism Advisory Committee – 2020 Annual Report

- 2020 DRAFT Annual Report presented (attached)

That the Social Sustainability Committee approve the 2020 Annual Report and presentation from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee.

Moved by: J. Richardson

9. Other Business

- 2021 Work Plans and 2020 Annual Reports
 - Advisory committees be prepared to present in the next two meetings.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Social Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Moved by: M. Sanders

Carried

Attachment:

- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report

St. Catharines Anti-Racism Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report (DRAFT)

by Saleh Waziruddin (chair)

1. Summary Highlights
2. 2020 Work Plan Progress
3. Interventions Beyond Work Plan
4. Issues for 2021

1. Summary Highlights:

- For 2020 the St. Catharines Anti-Racism Advisory Committee met 7 times, including 5 electronic meetings due to the pandemic. Two meetings were canceled due to insufficient quorum, one of which was during the pandemic under the constraint of YouTube livestream booking availability, and 3 monthly meetings were not held due to the pandemic.
- There was one resignation due to moving out of the area for a new job, with one new appointment/replacement, and one change in the vice chair.
- We have completed or made progress on 8 out of 10 items on the work plan.
- We made recommendations or interventions on 5 issues outside of the 2020 work plan.

2. 2020 Work Plan Progress:

The following table summarizes progress on the 10 items of the 2020 work plan:

Work Plan Item	Progress
1. Develop racist incident response protocol	Completed, being reviewed by other equity committees
2. Racism reporting and monitoring channels	Pending completion of the community survey to identify the best channels
3. Community survey on racism	In progress, a draft survey has been completed in partnership with Brock University's Niagara Community Observatory and will be sent to community partners later this year for further development
4. Review and audit existing city policies	In progress, a diverse supplier addendum to the purchasing policy was proposed and has been sent for review to the other equity committees
5. Develop suggestions for an employment equity policy	In progress, gathering some best practices from other cities
6. Review scope of anti-hate definitions and policies and propose expansions	Completed and sent for review to other equity committees, will be consulting Clerk/Legal.
7. Review/audit bylaws and enforcement with respect to bias and anti-racism	No progress

8. Prepare introductory informational literature on the anti-racism advisory committee	A draft outreach flier has been prepared
9. Community outreach	Anti-racist organizations have been identified to introduce ourselves to and they will shortly be contacted
10. Create a resource database of specialists on anti-racism training and education, develop training materials	A “scan” of local community organizations that can serve as resources has been completed

3. Interventions Beyond Work Plan:

A Harriet Tubman Day flag raising event with invited guests was organized at City Hall for March 10th, 2020.

At Council's request a comprehensive 10-point police reform program was recommended for forwarding to the Region. This was debated by Council and forwarded in part to the Region and Police Services Board.

Feedback was given on Facer District commemoration banners strongly advocating not partnering with any project which does not recognize the multiracial history of the neighborhood from its origins.

An emergency recommendation was made to council to ask the neighboring Regional Municipality of Haldimand and its Police Services Board, and the Province, to de-escalate from using police in favor of negotiations and consultations for the land dispute in Caledonia. Council did act on the recommendations unanimously. The Haldimand Police Services Board did issue a public written apology for using the language cited in our recommendation.

We coordinated with Black Owned 905 to include Black-owned St. Catharines businesses in the City's pickupstc/lovestc internet portal.

The chair spoke by invitation at anti-racism events including a rally at City Hall in June, at a meeting of the local Council of Women, and gave print and radio media interviews.

4. Issues for 2021

We are in the process of augmenting or refreshing the 2021 work plan to remove completed items and to add new items, especially those related to the pandemic and recovery.

For various reasons most items relating to anti-racism are not being referred to the anti-racism advisory committee. There needs to be on-going communication to Council and staff that if an issue relates to anti-racism it should be referred to the anti-racism advisory committee, even if other advisory committees are also consulted on the item. This does not seem to be an issue with any of the other equity advisory committees, only for anti-racism.