

Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Electronic Meeting at 7pm

Attendance:

Haley Bateman, Chair
Marcel Grimard, Vice Chair
Nesrine Kandil
Denise Zecchin
Emily Kovacs
Jingjing Ke
Sean Vanderklis
Fatima Sheikh, representative from Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
Liam Coward, representative from LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee

Absent:

Trecia McLennon
Esther Roselyn Wainaina
Lina Aristizabal

Guests:

Rochelle Bush, Trustee & Church Historian, Salem Chapel, BME Church Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NHS

Staff Liaison:

Melissa Wenzler

1. Call meeting to order (Chair H. Bateman)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

The Chair, H. Bateman, acknowledged that the land on which the Equity and Inclusion 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

The Chair welcomed R. Bush to present about Richard Pierpoint, agenda item 9.1, and welcomed L. Coward representing the LGBTQ2+ Advisory committee in the absence of L. McCormick. The Chair also asked if anyone wanted to discuss the protests that took place in St. Catharines over the past weekend. No comments were offered.

4. Motion to approve the agenda

That the agenda of the April 13th, 2021 meeting of the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee be approved.

Moved by M. Grimard, Seconded by F. Sheikh

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

That the minutes of the March 9th, 2021 meeting of the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee be approved.

Moved by F. Sheikh, Seconded by D. Zecchin

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

None.

7. Presentations (invited guests)

R. Bush gave a presentation to the committee on the significance of Richard Pierpoint to the committee members. See agenda items 9.1 and 10, Sub-Item 2. It was well-received by committee members and they thanked her for her time.

8. Business arising from the minutes

- Motions sent to other equity-seeking committees for feedback, see item 10 Items of Correspondence, Sub-Item 1. The correspondence was accepted by the committee.

9. Business

- a. 9.1 Park Renaming Feedback: Staff have reached out and asked if committee members would like to provide comments on the following (see Items of Correspondence, Sub-Item 2)**

Staff are preparing a report on the following request:

“That staff be directed to report back on opportunities to recognize Richard Pierpoint, including but not limited to the renaming of Centennial Gardens or

renaming of a road. That staff be directed to consult with the Heritage Advisory Committee as part of the development of the report.”

The Heritage Committee subsequently made the following motion:

“That the Heritage Advisory Committee supports the renaming of Centennial Park after Richard Pierpoint, National Historic Person, a recognized significant historic person of the City of St. Catharines, and a person with strong historical ties to these lands.

And That consideration be given to future rejuvenation of Centennial Park to celebrate the legacy of Richard Pierpoint and Butler’s Rangers.

And that the City engage the public and stakeholders in the proposed renaming and future commemoration activities in the park.”

The committee was very supportive of renaming Centennial Park after Richard Pierpoint, and after some discussion, passed the following motion:

“That there is unanimous support for the renaming of Centennial Park after Richard Pierpoint.”

Moved by S. Vanderklis, Seconded by F. Sheikh

Carried

b. 9.2 Sub-Committee Motion

E. Kovacs led the discussion about creating a sub-committee, the Equitable Recovery Sub-committee with the purpose of creating an equitable Municipal COVID Recovery Report that will outline policy direction and advocacy advice to the municipality on how the COVID recovery plan is impacting members of equity-seeking groups.

The motion invites the other equity-seeking committees to participate (if they are interested in participating) by appointing one of their members to the sub-committee.

E. Kovacs answered questions about the commitment required from sub-committee members and estimated 2 hours per meeting for up to 6 meetings, including additional reading materials in between the meetings.

At this point in the meeting, the committee agreed to a 10 minute break (from 7:55pm to 8:05pm) so those members observing Ramadan could break their fast. Members muted themselves and turned off their cameras for the duration of the break.

The discussion resumed at 8:05pm.

The committee passed the following motion:

“Motion to create the Equitable Recovery Sub-Committee.”

Moved by E. Kovacs, Seconded by N. Kandil

Carried

“and, that the Staff Liaison would find information about a Councillor being a part of the sub-committee.”

Moved by M. Grimard, Seconded by S. Vanderklis

Carried

c. 9.3 Workplan Items

D. Zecchin brought forward two items to add to the committee’s 2021 workplan:

- Professional Development and Training for Public Servants on the history of Indigenous Peoples
- Education for Reconciliation

Committee members agreed the items should be added to the 2021 workplan and discussed adding city volunteers to item concerning training for public servants on the history of Indigenous Peoples.

“Motion to accept these items for the 2021 workplan.”

Moved by N. Kandil, Seconded by F. Sheikh

Carried

N. Kandil brought forward the following item to add to the committee’s 2021 workplan:

Conduct research and gather demographics, including but not limited to statistics and an environmental scan of the skilled newcomer labour market (Niagara region), outlining those individuals who were not granted the opportunity to work within their skill set due to being newcomers.

Committee members discussed the item and brought up the need for a clearer definition of “skilled newcomer” to be covered in the work done, and discussed limiting the research to the city, rather than the region.

“Motion to accept the item for the 2021 workplan.”

Moved by F. Sheikh, Seconded by E. Kovacs

Carried

10. Items of Correspondence

- Sub-Item 1 -- Memo from the Accessibility Advisory Committee: Recognizing the Improvement of Equity and Inclusivity in the Community
- Sub-Item 2 -- Letter from Rochelle Bush: Renaming Centennial Gardens to Richard Pierpoint Park

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

The Staff Liaison will see if the date or time can be adjusted to account for Ramadan.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by F. Sheikh, Seconded by E. Kovacs

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.