

Minutes

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Electronic Meeting at 5:30pm

Attendance:

Rashmi Biswas
Aaron Grant
Samah Marei (left at 6:15pm)
Rhiannon McRae
Vicki-Lynn Smith
Saleh Waziruddin (Chair)
Erica Williams

Absent:

Jennifer Anand
Roxolana Chwaluk
Fatima Sheikh (Vice-Chair)

Guests:

Cassandra Ogunniyi – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager, Niagara Region

Staff Liaison:

Shannon McHugh, Manager of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

S. Waziruddin called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

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. Committee Update:

a. Recruitment Update

S. Waziruddin provided a recruitment update. A. Grant has been appointed by Council as new member and joins today for his first meeting. Council also appointed R. Simon to fill vacancy on the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee should there be another vacancy within one year. Members of the Committee and S. McHugh made introductions, welcome A. Grant.

b. Vice-Chair and Equity & Inclusion Representative Appointments

S. Waziruddin reported that F. Sheikh is stepping down as Vice-Chair and as the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee's representative on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Moved by VL. Smith

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee accept the resignation of F. Sheikh as Vice-Chair and Representative on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Carried

Following a call for committee members to express interest in serving as the Vice-Chair and representative on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, there was one interested party, VL. Smith.

Moved by S. Waziruddin

That Vicki-Lynn Smith be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee's Representative on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Carried

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

S. Waziruddin requested that the Staff recommendation regarding the Private Watson monument be added to the Agenda.

5. Motion to Approve the Agenda

Moved by S. Waziruddin

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the August 17, 2021 agenda as amended.

Carried as Amended

6. Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by VL. Smith

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting.

Carried

7. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

8. Presentations (invited guests)

Presentation by Cassie Ogunniyi, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program Manager – Niagara Region

Cassie presented to the Committee. She discussed the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work being done at the Regional level. Cassie presented the five goals for 2021-2022, listed some of the accomplishments to date, and discussed next steps. The Committee members asked questions of Cassie and were encouraged to contact her with any follow up questions.

9. Staff Recommendation Regarding Private Watson Monument

S. Waziruddin reported that Staff is requesting the Committee's endorsement of a draft motion to Council regarding the Private Watson monument being moved, restored, and relocated to Victoria Lawn Cemetery at a cost of up to \$80,000.00 for step one. S. Waziruddin noted that this item was previously discussed at the

February 16, 2021 meeting of the Committee and it was the Committee's recommendation then that the monument should be removed, not restored, as it represents oppression of Indigenous peoples.

Moved by S. Waziruddin

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee reply to City Staff with OPTION 2 – No I/we do not support the draft motion as written.

Carried

10. Business arising from the minutes

a. Report from Social Pillar

- i. Resolution to Support Calls to Action in Wake of London Islamophobic Attack

S. Waziruddin reported that this item has been referred to Staff.

- ii. Recommendations on Calls to Action from Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan

S. Waziruddin reported that this was not added to the Social Pillar August Agenda and will be added to the Agenda for the November 2021 meeting of the Social Pillar.

- iii. Anti-Street Harassment By-Law

S. Waziruddin reported that this item was passed at Social Pillar and sent as a separate report request to Council from the Social Pillar. The report request was amended by Councillor Townsend at the Council Meeting of August 9, 2021 to add 'aggressive behaviour' and the report request was referred to staff.

- iv. R-Zone Policy Amendments

S. Waziruddin reported that this item may take some time for staff to work out the proposed amendments with the host organizations.

S. Waziruddin reported on a news article about an incident of racism against a Six Nations lacrosse team in the City of St.

Catharines last month at Haig Bowl Arena. R. McCrae detailed her understanding of the event and indicated her research is ongoing. Unclear whether Haig Bowl Arena continues to be operated by the City.

b. Calls to Action from Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- i. The Outreach and Education workgroup – training database on Anti-Indigenous Racism

S. Waziruddin reported that this remains in progress by S. Marei (S. Marei had to leave meeting at 6:15 p.m.).

- ii. Review of the St. Catharines Library and Museum in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 's Calls to Action

VL. Smith reported that the library is working on implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action by investigating training options for staff, working with vendors to re-catalogue its collection by adopting Indigenous subject headings, reaching out to local friendship centers for comment, and by organizing activities to recognize truth and reconciliation day on September 30, 2021.

S. Waziruddin reported that he talked to the museum and it is part of the Canadian Museum Association which has a staff member dedicated to this issue. The Association will be issuing a report next year after which the Museum will be doing a review.

c. City Planning

R. Biswas reported on the concept of the 'equity test' after following up with Dr. Agrawal who forwarded an article entitled 'Balancing Municipal Planning with Human Rights' (Canadian Journal of Urban Research). The article references the 'Andrews Test'. The 'equity test' was used in Toronto. The research is ready to be shared with Staff. S. McHugh confirmed that since C. Switzer has left she contacted the Director of Planning & Building and is waiting on a reply regarding a meeting. S. Waziruddin will forward original email from the Mayor.

11. Business

a. 11.1 Outreach

S. Waziruddin reported that messaging will require re-working and that this remains ongoing.

b. 11.2 Training Resources

S. Waziruddin reported that this matter is ongoing.

c. 11.3 Progress of Work

No further update.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 530pm

13. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by E. Williams

That the August 17, 2021 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.