

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Electronic Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Jenniffer Anand (arrived ~6:05pm)
Rashmi Biswas
Samah Marei
Rhiannon McCrae
Fatima Sheikh, Vice-Chair (arrived ~6:50pm)
Vicki-Lynn Smith
Saleh Waziruddin, Chair
Erica Williams

Absent:

Roxolana Chwaluk

Staff Liaison:

Chantal Switzer, Corporate Support Services Coordinator
Shannon McHugh, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Call meeting to Order (Chair)

S. Waziruddin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

S. Waziruddin acknowledged that the land on which 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 Updates

- a. Shannon McHugh, Manager of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, introduced herself to the Committee and Committee members introduced themselves to her.

- b. Recruitment – S. Waziruddin provided an update that the Social Sustainability Pillar is meeting tomorrow (July 22, 2021) to review applications to fill the vacancy on the Committee. This should go to council in August, 2021.

4. Additions/Deletion to the Agenda

S. Waziruddin moved to amend the agenda to add Resolution to Support Calls to Action in Wake of London Islamophobic Attack to the Agenda.

5. Motion to Approve the Agenda

Moved by VL. Smith

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the July 21, 2021 meeting agenda as amended

Carried

6. Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

S. Waziruddin notes that:

- item 7(b)(ii) of the draft June 15, 2021 minutes should reflect that both VL. Smith and S. Waziruddin are working together on this item; and
- item 10 of the draft June 15, 2021 minutes should reflect next meeting date of July 21, 2021 at 6:00pm to accommodate Eid.

Moved by VL. Smith

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021 meeting as amended

Carried as Amended

7. Declarations of Interest

None

8. Business Arising from Minutes

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

S. Waziruddin pointed out that amendments are required to the previous meeting's Resolution to Support Calls to Action in Wake of London Islamophobic Attack given that the Anti-Islamophobia summit is to take place on July 22, 2021. S. Waziruddin presented changes in tense to the document to reflect that the summit will have already happened when Council receives the recommendation. An amendment was made for Council to consider endorsing calls to action from the summit.

Moved by S. Waziruddin

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee amend the Resolution to Support Calls to Action in Wake of London Islamophobic Attack.

updated: July 21, 2021

Resolution in Support of Calls for Action In the Wake of the Islamophobic Attack in London, Ontario

WHEREAS on June 6, 2021, members of a Muslim family were killed in a racist terrorist attack which targeted the family because of they were Muslim; and

WHEREAS Islamophobia is a form of racism and needs to be addressed systemically, and

WHEREAS the National Council of Canadian Muslims has called for a national summit on Islamophobia and the Federal Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Youth has committed to holding this summit, and

WHEREAS none of the police-reported hate crimes in Niagara in the last two years have been prosecuted as hate crimes, per the reports of the Niagara Regional Police Service; and

WHEREAS the attack suspect has been charged with terrorism

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines condemn the London attack of June 6, 2021 as an act of Islamophobia and terrorism; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines support the call for a national summit on Islamophobia, endorse the demands for federal, provincial, and municipal actions from

the National Council of Canadian Muslims submitted to the submit, and consider endorsing the calls to action from the summit;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines urges provincial crown prosecution attorneys to aggressively prosecute hate crimes as hate crimes; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines asks the province of Ontario to re-instate funding for the Anti-Racism Directorate; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines condemn politicians and governments of all political backgrounds who promote hate, including but not limited to xenophobia and Islamophobia, for political gain; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines call upon the Government of Canada to immediately introduce and strengthen laws to address online hate speech, including white supremacy and the distribution of hateful materials targeting minority groups, including Muslims, and including considering re-introducing Section 13 of the Canada Human Rights Act which targeted online hate; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines denounce the Quebec Charter of Values and Bill 21 as they are inherently biased toward people of faith and in this context in particular Muslim women for its ban on the hijab and other head coverings; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines support and invite public discussions on how to prevent online hate in coordination with the efforts of other levels of government.

Carried

b. Call to Action from Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- i. The Outreach and Education workgroup - training database on Anti-Indigenous Racism
- ii. Review of the St. Catharines Library and Museum in implementing the TRC's Calls to Action
- iii. Language interpretation services offered by the City of St. Catharines
- iv. Indigenous sports

The Committee agreed to deal with the proposed below resolution while coming back at another time to the Library and Museum which will involve more work.

Moved by S. Waziruddin

St. Catharines Anti-Racism Advisory Committee Recommendations on Calls to Action from Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan

July 21, 2021

WHEREAS hundreds of unmarked graves of Indigenous children have been found at sites of residential schools and hundreds more may be found yet; and

WHEREAS there have been Calls to Action by both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as work ensuing from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, namely the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan; and

WHEREAS census statistics show there are four Indigenous languages spoken with equal frequency in St. Catharines (Cree, Ojibwe, Cayuga, Mohawk), but only two have interpretation provided through the City's current vendor

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends Council:

Ask for federal and provincial funding demanded of \$1.2m for the ground penetrating radar studies

Ask for the federal government to drop the court cases against underfunding First Nations, Metis, Inuit children's education.

Ask that the federal government finish paying compensation to day school survivors class action lawsuit.

Ask for the opening of records for sixties scoops survivors.

Demanding the federal government hire more indigenous staff at Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada & hire an Indigenous head of the department overseeing Status claims.

Include links on the city website to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society fund, TRC, <http://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/> <https://www.indigenousrelationsacademy.com/>

Publish online a statement of support for the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends Council repudiate the colonial doctrine of *Terra Nullis* ; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends Council ask staff to report with options for adding Mohawk and, if possible, Cayuga, interpretation services either through the current vendor or through an additional vendor; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends Council ask staff to explore establishing a lacrosse field; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends Council endorse the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan.

Carried

9. Business

a. R-Zone Policy: Evacuation protocol at sports events

S. Waziruddin reports that J. Anand found procedures for evacuating events. This will be developed for St. Catharines and discussed with Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee.

b. Outreach

No update. S. Waziruddin to provide contacts to S. Marei.

c. Training resources

No update.

d. City Planning

R. Biswas and F. Sheikh met with Dr. Sandeep Agrawal, Professor and Director, School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Alberta, and Katie Burkholder Harris,

Executive Director of Alliance to End Homelessness, Ottawa regarding urban planning and anti-racism. S. Waziruddin suggests R. Biswas and/or F. Sheikh meet with planning department and Chair of the Committee of Adjustment to review recommendations. Staff Liaison to facilitate this connection. R. Biswas to follow up with Dr. Agrawal regarding Equity Testing.

e. Anti-Street Harassment By-law Report

S. Waziruddin drafted policy report as requested which will be submitted to the upcoming Social Pillar committee, requested feedback from Staff Liaison.

f. Progress of work

No update on other work at this time.

10. Date of Next Meeting

August 17, 5:30pm

11. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by VL. Smith.

That the July 21, 2021 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.