

Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Electronic Meeting at 5:30 pm

Attendance:

Jenniffer Anand
Rashmi Biswas
Roxolana Chwaluk
Aaron Grant
Samah Marei (arrived at 5:34 pm)
Vicki-Lynn Smith
Saleh Waziruddin

Absent:

Rhiannon McRae
Fatima Sheikh
Erica Williams

Staff Liaison:

Shannon McHugh, Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

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

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

S. Waziruddin requested that the vandalism of the Harriet Tubman statue be added to the Agenda.

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by J. Anand

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the agenda as amended for the October 19, 2021 meeting.

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved by V.L. Smith

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

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

7. Business arising from the minutes

a) Equitable Recovery Sub-Committee – Review of Draft Plan

R. Chwaluk, A. Grant and S. Waziruddin submitted written feedback on the draft plan. R. Biswas, who sits on the Sub-Committee, thanked the group for its thoughtful feedback and confirmed the Sub-Committee is meeting at least one more time. S. McHugh indicated that J. Rorison has left the City for another opportunity and that S. McHugh may be taking over as Staff Liaison to the Sub-Committee.

Moved by V.L. Smith

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee send the submitted feedback on the draft recovery plan to the Equitable Recovery Sub-Committee.

Carried

b) Review of Division of Workplan Items

S. Waziruddin reviewed the workplan items and provided a summary of each. S. Waziruddin reviewed the division of the workplan items as among the current Committee members, with new member A. Grant added to the list. The

Committee discussed next steps and that division of work may be revisited as more information comes in and work continues.

8. Business

a. 8.1 Harriet Tubman Statue

S. Waziruddin updated the Committee on the vandalism of the Harriet Tubman Statue at the BME Church. The bust needs to be completely replaced. An arrest has been made. The Mayor has offered City support to the BME Church and there is a GoFundMe for donations. It was discussed that while the intention of the offending person might not have been racism, it still has a racial impact. The police are accepting Victim Impact Statements and three members of the Committee have completed same. S. Waziruddin can forward information from anyone else who might be interested in submitting a statement.

b. 8.2 Update on Watson Statue

S Waziruddin updated the Committee on the status of the Watson Statue removal and relocation from the Council meeting of October 4, 2021. The matter will come back to Council at some point. S. McHugh will try to advise the Committee when it next comes back. S. McHugh reported that the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee spoke about this issue at their meeting last week and passed a motion to write a letter to Council in support of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee's position on the statue's removal from City Hall.

c. 8.3 Outreach and Education

J. Anand, F. Sheikh and S. Marei continue to work on this item. The Committee discussed the lists being created of community organizations for outreach and education and whether establishing a criteria would be helpful. S. McHugh will send the lists compiled by the Region. Work will continue.

d. 8.4 Training Resources

No update.

e. 8.5 City Planning

R. Biswas, F. Sheikh and S. McHugh met with T. Kitay, Director of Planning and Building Services. The meeting was a positive one. T. Kitay is interested in incorporating the Committee's feedback in city planning measures moving forward. There will continue to be further dialogue between the Committee members and staff.

f. 8.6 Committee/Board Recruitment Outreach to BIPOC Communities

S. McHugh had a follow up discussion with staff who is working on this item on a Council-led initiative. The work was delayed by Covid-19 but staff hopes to come to the Committee in early 2022 with information and a presentation and seek further input. S. Waziruddin indicated that the work of the Committee is separate from the work of staff and requested demographic statistics on both applicants and appointees as soon as possible for the committees, boards and commissions. S. McHugh will follow up again.

g. 8.7 BIPOC Arts, Culture, and Festival Support

S. McHugh requested from staff a list of those organizations who applied for grants, including SCCIP and fee waivers, and those organizations who have received grants for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 to date. This information is pending from staff and will be sent out by S. McHugh when received.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 5:30pm.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Prior to adjourning, S. McHugh provided an update on a report that went to Council on October 18, 2021 regarding the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM): Recommendations from the National Summit on Islamophobia. Council passed a motion to endorse the municipal recommendations from the NCCM. The Committee discussed the status of its own resolution on the same issue with wider suggestions that went to Social Pillar in July.

R. Biswas and S. Waziruddin noted that sometimes the Committee's minutes are uploaded to CivicWeb but do not make it on to the Council Agenda while other

committees' minutes do. S. McHugh indicated this could be a matter of timing but will report back.

Moved by V.L. Smith

That the October 19, 2021 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Carried

DRAFT