

# Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

## Minutes

**Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

**Electronic Meeting at 5:30pm**

### **Attendance:**

Rashmi Biswas  
Roxolana Chwaluk  
Samah Marei  
Rhiannon McRae  
Fatima Sheikh  
Vicki-Lynn Smith  
Saleh Waziruddin

### **Absent:**

Jenniffer Anand  
Aaron Grant  
Erica Williams

### **Staff Liaison:**

Shannon McHugh, Manager of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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#### **1. Call meeting to order (Chair)**

S. Waziruddin called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

#### **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**

The

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee  
is an Advisory Committee of City Council



There were no amendments to the agenda.

**4. Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by F. Sheikh

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the agenda for the September 21, 2021 meeting.

**Carried**

**5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

The group reviewed the minutes during the meeting as they were not yet posted online. Under item 10(a)(ii), the Social Pillar meeting date should read 'July', not 'August'. Under item 12, 530pm should read 5:30pm.

Moved by VL. Smith

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting, as amended.

**Carried**

**6. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**7. Equitable Recovery Sub-Committee – Review of Draft Recovery Policy**

R. Biswas provided an update on the work of the Equitable Recovery Sub-Committee. The draft recovery plan is being circulated to all the equity-seeking advisory committees of council for feedback and endorsement. The Committee discussed the draft. At least one member had not reviewed the document. It was decided that this matter would be deferred to the October 19, 2021 meeting. Committee members will send written feedback to S. McHugh to compile and send out with next agenda to facilitate ease of discussion at next meeting.

**8. Business**

**a. 8.1 Outreach and Education**

S. Waziruddin sent a partial updated list of community organizations to S. Marei for outreach. The introductory outreach message can include the

recent Anti-Street Harassment and Anti-Hate Sign By-laws being considered by City Council. S. Marei suggested the list of organizations be a 'living document' since contact and other information will change or be added to.

**b. 8.2 Training Resources**

S. Marei, F. Sheikh, and J. Anand continue to work on the list of training resources. It was suggested that this be a 'living document' as well to allow for changes and additions. S. Marei confirms that Niagara Regional Native Center and Fort Erie Native Friendship Center are both willing to provide training on Anti-Racism as part of a larger presentation. R. McRae will reach out to her contact as a potential further provider and report back to S. Marei, F. Sheikh and J. Anand.

**c. 8.3 City Planning**

S. McHugh confirms she met with Tami Kitay, Director of Planning and Building Services and provided her with the preliminary work of R. Biswas and F. Sheikh. T. Kitay is willing to meet with Committee members working on this item. Meeting to be scheduled.

**d. 8.4 Committee/Board Recruitment Outreach to BIPOC Communities**

The Committee is requesting statistics from the Clerks department on the demographics of both those who applied and also who were selected for City advisory committees, boards, and commissions. S. McHugh advised the committee that the Clerks department is working on this issue on a Council-led initiative. S. McHugh will try to obtain the requested information for the Committee.

**e. 8.5 BIPOC Arts, Cultures, and Festival Support**

The Committee is requesting the list of those who applied for and also were selected for arts and culture grants, such as the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP). S. McHugh will try to obtain the requested information for the Committee.

**9. Items of Correspondence**

- a) Memo from Donna Delvecchio, Deputy Clerk regarding 2022 Municipal and School Board Election – Alternative Voting Method Survey

The Committee accepted this item of correspondence for information.

**10. Date of next meeting**

October 19, 2021 at 5:30pm.

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

Prior to adjourning, R. Biswas requested a discussion of division of workplan items. S. McHugh suggested this be added to the agenda of the October meeting. S. Waziruddin will reach out to new member A. Grant to see what item he might be interested in.

Moved by F. Sheikh

That the September 21, 2021 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:24pm.

**Carried**