



Hamilton

MINUTES

**Aboriginal Advisory Committee
Thursday April 4, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Room 264**

Present: Connie Bellamy, Marilyn Wright, Debra Elmes, Allan Loft
Regrets: Yvonne Maracle, David Bentley, Cindy-Sue Montana-McCormack

Absent:

Also Present: Maxine Carter, Barb Smoke - City of Hamilton

Guest: Jenny Dupuis, Aboriginal Community Liaison, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Chairperson: Marilyn Wright chaired the meeting.

1. Opening.

- A. Loft opened the meeting at 5:39 p.m., with a prayer

2. Welcome and Introductions.

- M. Wright welcomed everyone
- Everyone introduced themselves

3. Declaration of Interest.

- None declared

4. Review and Approval of Agenda.

- The addition of item 9a, Protecting Mother Earth Youth & Elders' Gathering

MOTION #1

D. Elmes/C. Bellamy

That the agenda be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED.

5. Presentations.

(a) Jenny Dupuis, Aboriginal Community Liaison, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

- Gail Belisario, Principal of Organizational Leadership and Equity was unavailable to attend the meeting.

- Jenny Dupuis was hired nearly 2 years ago, as the Aboriginal Community Liaison for the HWDSB
- The HWDSB conducted consultations in the Aboriginal Community and as a result, developed and approved an Aboriginal Education Policy in January 2012 – the main tenet of the policy stated that the Board: , “will respect the culture and traditions of the Aboriginal Community”
- The program then expanded the staff by hiring a social worker; Kristina Zito was hired to provide culturally appropriate support of the social and emotional needs of the Aboriginal students
- Some of the other initiatives include:
 - Ojibway language classes at Sir John A. Macdonald
 - Hiring of an Aboriginal Liaison Worker, Jerica Ryan at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
 - Glendale Secondary School received a grant for a credit course, regarding the residential school experience. Students will learn how to write plays and develop their artistic skills. Students will be supported by playwrights, residential school survivors and other mentors. Tentative dates of their first show are May 28th and 29th. The students wrote the play and they are also directing and starring in the play. J. Dupuis will send confirmation of the dates when the play will be showing to Barb Smoke.
 - April 14 – May 31, 2013, The Art Gallery of Hamilton will host the opening of a show entitled: Songide’ewin: Aboriginal Narratives in the Jean and Ross Fischer Gallery
 - Both Prince of Wales and Queen Mary Elementary Schools have a Native as a Second Language Program
 - School board staff recently attended a professional development day at the Woodlands Cultural Centre
 - Summer literacy program for elementary students will launch this year
- Sir John A MacDonald Secondary School has had the Native Youth Advancement with Education Hamilton (NYAWEH) for a few years now and doing very well. The HRIC’s Strengthening Hamilton Aboriginal Education Program (SHAE) is linked to the Sir John A. Macdonald and Parkview Schools program

Question: Can you tell us what is happening with the Self Identification Policy?

- Most recently, we launched a pilot project for self-identification
- The Self Identification Policy was developed with a marketing plan and input for the policy was gathered from consultation with the Aboriginal Community

- The program rolled out last week, in high schools and will roll out next week, in elementary schools.
- This initiative is currently being launched across the province.
- The roll out is first to administrators (principals), then teachers and other staff. It is currently included in their professional development sessions – workshop includes understanding the implementation process, data collection and methodology and building trust with the community.
- The data is aggregated, hence will not identify individual students. The data is shared in groups.
- Literacy and numeracy rates, including identification of gaps and barriers were analyzed. Current program gaps were also identified and specific programs were identified, that are intended to close the gaps and meet the needs of Aboriginal students.

Question: Where did you get the funding for this program?

We received a little funding from the Province. There is no Federal funding for the program.

Question: Is this program being done anywhere else in the country?

Yes this program is being implemented in Saskatchewan. They are ahead of Ontario since they have conducted a deeper analysis of the data and have developed programming for Aboriginal students.

Question: How is the program being marketed?

The brochures are being sent home to parents, through the students. I have hosted a number of information sessions for parents with regard to the Self Identification Policy to help them understand why the need for such a policy, including outcomes and benefits to the Aboriginal community.

The committee thanks Jenny Dupuis and asked her to come back again to discuss the progress of implementation of the new policy and its effectiveness.

6. Approval of Minutes.

(a) March 7, 2013.

- Review of minutes

MOTION #2

C. Bellamy /D. Elmes

To accept the minutes of the March 7, 2013 meeting, as presented.

CARRIED.

(b) Business Arising from the Minutes.

- Page 2, item 6b, D. Elmes did not attend the Valentines Social and therefore not in a position to provide an update on the event
 - Page 2, item 8, Work Plan, re: Aboriginal Month declaration, M. Carter contacted the City Clerks to investigate the possibility of a National Aboriginal Day declaration and to discuss the possibility of scheduling an Aboriginal spiritual opening for the first Council meeting in June.
 - M. Carter was informed that the City does not make declarations any longer. The request for an Aboriginal Spiritual Opening was confirmed for the June 12th Council meeting. The committee must identify the individual who would be delivering the prayer and opening. They will be given 3 – 5 minutes.
 - The certificates to be awarded to representatives of the Aboriginal Agencies in Hamilton will take place at the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee on June 10th. The committee must prepare an agenda with timelines, so that M. Carter can present it to the Clerk, for review and approval.
 - Linda Jenkins will be asked to provide a quote for dressing the eagle feather, including the cost of a case for the eagle feather.
 - C. Bellamy will contact Donna Russell and A. Loft will follow-up with his contacts regarding an eagle feather.
 - The feather is to be displayed at all AAC meetings and to be ready for the June City Council meeting and the Audit, Admin & Finance Committee meeting.
 - It was discussed that the unity symbol be part of the beaded design on the eagle feather.
- 7. Terms of Reference Workshop Update.**
Final document.
- The report respecting the newly revised Terms of Reference for the Committee to be presented to the Audit, Admin. & Finance Committee meeting on May 13, 2013.
- 8. Work Plan Discussion.**
- Deferred until the next meeting
- 9. New Business.**
- (a) Request from J. Vengris Housing and Homelessness Strategy.**
- J. Vengris has requested to appear at a future committee meeting to discuss the Housing and Homelessness Strategy.
 - The following report was distributed, "What we Heard...Talking to People About Housing & Homeless in Hamilton", October 2012.
 - Some members are unable to attend the next meeting of May 2, hence the committee discussed changing the date to May 9th.

- The committee would like Jenny Vengris invited to the meeting of May 9, 2013

MOTION #3**C. Bellamy /D. Elmes**

That the May 2, 2013 committee meeting be rescheduled to May 9, 2013 because a number of committee members will not be available to attend on the usual date.

CARRIED.

(b) Protecting Mother Earth Youth & Elders' Gathering (PME).

- Elders Gathering to be held on May 24, 6:00 pm and Pow Wow to be held May 25, with the Grand Entry at noon.
- Correspondence received, inviting the AAC to put an ad in the PME program and to request that the committee consider having representation at the information booth on Saturday May 25th
- D. Elmes, C. Bellamy and M. Wright volunteered to be present at the table.

MOTION #4**C. Bellamy/D. Elmes**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee participate in the Protecting Mother Earth Youth & Elders' Gathering, by hosting an information booth, on May 25, 2013, at the cost of \$35.

CARRIED.

- The committee requested that staff look into the availability of space for a banner across Main Street, in the month of June.
- M. Wright will discuss with HEDAC the possibility of sharing the cost of designing and creating a National Aboriginal Day banner.
- M. Carter to investigate the possibility of getting additional quotes for the design and printing of a banner from others vendors.

10. Information Sharing.

- (a) Benefit Concert for Project Harvest Guatemala: A handful of Hope, Apr. 6, 6:30, 170 Dundurn St. S.
- (b) Traditional Healing Program, "The Journey of the Soul" facilitated by Jane Burning, Apr. 26, 9 am – 3 pm
- (c) Hamilton Police Services Panel Conversation, Reducing Hate in Our Society, May 1, 7-9 p.m., at 215 Cline Ave.

11. Next Meeting.

- Thursday May 9, 2013 (2nd Thursday)

12. Adjournment. That the meeting be adjourned, at 7:28 p.m.