



Hamilton

MINUTES
IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (I&RC)
Thursday November 8, 2012 - 6:30 pm
City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Room 192

Present: Dustin Rouse, Minh Trinh, Dena Honig, Maher Hamade, Arvind Sahay, Thayra Marting, Shuja Qureshi, Abdulkhaliq Herati.
Also Present: Maxine Carter, Jaffar Hayat – City of Hamilton - Access & Equity Division, Grace Maciak - Ontario Works Program.
Regrets: David Hosten, Hana Pinthus Rotchild (leave), Nasir Sarwar (leave), Aspy Ayrton, Sumaira Khurshid, Zafar Siddiqui, Isaac Acquah, Joana Fejzaj, Paul Hoang.

Absent:

1. Welcome and Introductions.

All were welcomed.

2. Declaration of Interest.

None declared.

3. Approval of Agenda.

The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and approved.

S. Qureshi/D. Honig

To accept the agenda, as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2012.

- Addition of item #7.1.1, to add Arvind Sahay into the schedule, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

D. Honig/S. Qureshi

To approve the minutes of October 11, 2012, as amended.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of October 11, 2012.

5.1 Annual Budget for 2013.

The committee members would like to have some funding available for initiatives being planned by the sub-committees. M. Carter informed the committee, that it is the prerogative of the Committee

to discuss and vote to approve the project(s) that meets the committee's mandate. It was agreed that sub-committees must present their recommendations and action plan to the committee early in the New Year, so that there is enough time to plan and execute the agreed upon initiative before the end of 2013.

5.2 Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC).

The committee was informed that Linda Barton, Manager of the Local Immigration Partnership Council is not available to attend the January 2013 meeting. The committee suggested that Linda Barton be invited to the February 2013 meeting and requested that M. Hamade inform her and follow-up on this matter.

Discussion followed:

The committee members felt strongly that the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee should be represented at the table of the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC). M. Hamade informed the committee that he is a member of the board (as an individual) and a representative on the employment subcommittee of HIPC. He felt that his membership on the sub-committee could be of benefit to the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee as well. M. Hamade also provided some information regarding the role of the HIPC, as a service delivery organization, where the focus is on education, health, employment and settlement of newcomers in Hamilton. He suggested the following avenues for the future collaboration with HIPC:

- A. Both groups can facilitate each other's learning and they can embark on various relevant collaborative ventures
- B. Helping each other access grass roots community representation.
- C. Provide advice to each other

Linda Barton made a request through M. Hamade, that a member of the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee attend a future HIPC meeting to provide an overview of the Newcomer Open House to the Settlement Working Group as soon as possible in 2013.

The committee members were asked to submit their questions for Linda Barton, to staff who would forward them to her in advance of the meeting, so that her time is utilized properly. Please e-mail your questions to M. Carter as soon as possible.

5.3 Open House 2012, Follow-Up.

The committee discussed inviting the participating agencies and city departmental representatives who attended the Newcomers Open

House to a meeting to gather feedback and input for the next event scheduled for fall. The committee would like to work with other groups in the planning of the event.

5.4 By Law and Policy Review Project.

M. Carter informed the committee that the consultants are preparing the second draft manual/report, based on all feedback and input received from staff and volunteer advisory committees. She will report back in January regarding next steps.

6. Presentation.

No presentation for this meeting.

7. Business Items.

7.1 Work Plan & Priorities Discussion

7.1.1 Partnership with Service Providers (Sub-Committee 3):

Sub-committee 3, requested clarification regarding the purpose of this committee. It was explained that it is the role of sub-committee 3 to develop a proposal that would include a purpose for the partnerships in relation to advisory committee, who should be involved, what might these partnerships look like, benefits of the partnerships to the advisory committee and report back to the committee. A. Sahay and M. Trinh to meet and brainstorm ideas. They will report back at the December meeting.

7.1.2 Employment (Sub-Committee 2 & 5):

The committee reported that they are proposing that sub-committee 2 (Employment Opportunities) and 5 (Regulating Bodies) merge since their mandates seem to have a lot of overlap.

A report was presented regarding the sub-committee meetings (held in June, September and November, 2012) and a tentative framework of the sub-committee was highlighted and discussed:

- Endorsing the other organizations working to create employment for the new comers in Hamilton
- Co-sponsoring the work of organizations like HIPC
- Sharing resources with newcomers, i.e. Open House

It was noted that the Employment Tips and Advice Guide currently being finalized will be used by the HIPC committee to promote newcomers to potential employers.

In the discussion that followed:

It was noted that the committee cannot endorse all the recommendation. Instead the committee needs to develop criteria for selection and also need to develop a consensus among various sub-committees on how to proceed.

D. Honig/D. Rouse

That subcommittees 2 and 5 be merged together and that the Employment Sub-committee present a plan to the Immigrant Refugee Advisory Committee as soon as possible.

CARRIED.

E. Honig/D. Rouse

To accept the report of subcommittee 3 as presented.

CARRIED.

7.1.3 Open House Sub committee:

Tabled

8. Review and comment on reports, legislation and studies.

No reports.

9. Correspondence/Current affairs.

No correspondence.

10. New Business.

10. 1 Initiative for newcomers who are professionally trained.

Tabled.

10. 2 Facilitation Inclusion Cooperative.

Tabled.

10. 3 Review of membership.

Tabled.

11. Next Meeting Date.

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2012.

12. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

A. Herati/A. Sahay

To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED.