



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday January 24, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

Present: Joe Rhodes, Tyrone Childs, Winston Morrison, Mimoza Kajtazi, Yim Chung, Baldeep Virk, Amirah Hassan, Nerene Virgin, Roger Cameron,
Also Present: City Councillor Brian McHattie, Maxine Carter, Jennifer Mak, Jaffar Hayat - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office
Regrets: Jessica Brennan, Ashok Kumar, Zafar Siddiqui, Taimur Qasim (on leave)
Absent: Wael Ghuneim, Ismail Baris Oz
Guests : Dave Brodati – Housing and Homelessness, Housing Services
Nicole MacIntyre – Hamilton Spectator

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- All were welcomed

2. Declaration of Interest.

- None declared

3. Review of Agenda.

Additions:

- 3.1 Report from Fire Chief
- 3.2 Request for leave of absence – Taimur Qasim
- Under New Business:
- 3.3 Reverend John C. Holland Awards
- 3.4 Follow up regarding meeting with Downtown Mosque
- 3.5 Hamilton Wentworth District School Board

W. Morrison/N. Virgin

To accept the agenda with the additions.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes December 13, 2011.

- Revise minutes to include Yim Chung, who was at the meeting.

T. Childs/W. Morrison

That the minutes of December 13, 2011 be approved, with the indicated change.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

5.1 Report from Councillor McHattie regarding his meeting with Fire Chief, Rob Simonds about Fire Fighter Recruitment Process

The application fees, for testing, are lowest among all municipalities in our area.

- 5.1.1 Reviewing best practices for testing and identification of the hidden barriers being faced by racialized people.

- 5.1.2 The recruitment process for 2012 has started and orientation sessions will be held February 2 and 9, 2012, from 7-9 pm at Sir John A. Macdonald School. Closing date for applications is February 15, 2012. An appeal was made to CAR members to send their contacts the information regarding the recruitment session and encourage attendance.
- 5.1.3 The Fire Department will place a recruitment ad in the Reverend John C. Holland Awards booklet on February 4, 2012.
- 5.1.4 The Fire Department will target schools in partnership with the Hamilton Police Services, by going through the Guidance department and hope to encourage students to go into a policing career.
- 5.1.5 Councillor McHattie will also check with the Fire Department to hold information sessions at any locations proposed by the committee.
- 5.1.6 Members suggested that the Fire Department target high schools, colleges, universities, Community Information Services, temples, mosques, synagogues and ethnic newspapers.
- 5.1.7 R. Cameron asked for more opportunities for racialized youth to volunteer with the Fire Department.

J. Rhodes/W. Morrison

To receive Brian McHattie's report regarding recruitment initiatives of the Hamilton Fire department, on behalf of Chief Rob Simonds.

CARRIED.

5.2 Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

M. Carter informed the committee that Judith Ngan, HWDSB or her designate, will be attending future meetings of the committee, as requested.

6. Presentation.

6.1 Dave Brodati, Housing and Homelessness, Housing Services The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.

D. Brodati provided an overview of the Hamilton Housing & Homelessness Action Plan. The Housing & Homelessness Action Plan is a 10 years plan, for which the City is responsible for planning and coordinating the range of services that deal with homelessness and affordable housing in our community.

He also mentioned that the proposed Action Plan will address barriers, such as poor quality housing, lack of access and information. He and his team of Housing and Homelessness Division have conducted 20 community roundtables and focus groups, including people with lived experiences. The discussions were either based on issues or by certain population groups.

D. Brodati also mentioned that the Housing & Homelessness Action Plan Draft will be presented to the City Council late spring/early summer. A detailed plan will be ready by the end of 2012. His team would like to host a focus group with anyone from the CAR and their contacts with lived experiences.

The important areas being highlighted in the action plan are:

- Not enough Housing
- Choice
- Supports

- Suitability
- Sustainability
- Stigma and discrimination
- Quality
- Income and Affordability
- Person Centered (experience using the system)

The following committee members showed their willingness to participate in a focus group: Joe Rhodes, Tyrone Childs, Winston Morrison, Mimoza Kajtazi, Yim Chung, Amirah Hassan, Nerene Virgin, Roger Cameron.

D. Brodati to send out an e-mail with the date and time for a focus group.

N. Virgin/A. Hassan

To accept David Brodati's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan presentation.

CARRIED.

7. Business Items: Work Plan Reports.

- 7.1 Sub-committee I – Presentation to General Issues Committee
- The committee shared the presentation that will be delivered to General Issues Committee on February 1, 2012 and asked the members for feedback.
 - W. Morrison, J. Rhodes and R. Cameron will deliver the presentation to the GIC.

N. Virgin/J. Rhodes

That the presentation prepared by Sub-committee I, which provides an overview of CAR's mandate, the outcomes of the third symposium including committee recommendations be approved to be presented at an upcoming General Issues Committee (GIC) of Council.

CARRIED.

7.2 Black History Month Event.

- R. Cameron asked for volunteers to participate on Sub-committee I, to help with the planning and execution of the Black History Month event
- M. Carter to organize the next Sub-committee meeting by e-mail

7.3 Sub-committee II – Participatory Democracy & Anti-Racism Policies.

- Tabled

7.4 Sub-committee III – Education, Training & Awareness Raising.

- Tabled

7.5 Racist incidents report & follow up:

- Tabled

7.5.1 Follow-up Hate Crimes Report – Sgt. Nancy Lantz, HPS.

- Tabled

7.5.2 Hamilton Spec. Diversity Reporter, Nicole MacIntyre.

- N. MacIntyre provided an overview of the Spectator's Diversity Project
- They are looking for stories of discrimination and new voices. She informed committee members that the Spectator will want to print the name of the person submitting the story and include their photo

- The Spectator would like committee members to give them ideas of what stories they can write about

Question – How will the Spectator measure the implementation of the project?

Answer – When we see the diverse communities responding and submitting stories, including the variety of interesting stories

Other Issues raised by CAR members:

- There is a need to improve our representation of diverse reporters
- There is a demand for racial & ethno-cultural reporters at all newspapers
- Many committee members believe that newspapers often unfairly portray the racialized communities, when covering stories. These stories are rarely positive stories

M. Kajtazi/W. Morrison

That the presentation of Nicole MacIntyre, Diversity Reporter for the Hamilton Spectator be accepted.

CARRIED.

8. New Business.

8.1 Reverend John C. Holland Awards.

- Nominations deadline was January 9, 2012, and then extended to January 16, 2012. Members can call to ask if they can still submit nominations.
- Gala to be held at Michelangelos Banquet Centre on February 4, 2012, at 6:30 pm.
- Yim Chung has volunteered to attend. M. Carter will e-mail the committee to get another member to attend.

J. Rhodes/T. Childs

That the Committee purchase 2 tickets to the Reverend John C. Holland Awards Gala, to be held February 4, 2012 at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre and that two members attend on behalf of the committee.

CARRIED.

8.2 Request for a leave of absence.

- Taimur Qasim has requested a leave of absence from committee meetings for the next 4 months.

J. Rhodes/N. Virgin

That the leave of absence be granted to Taimur Qasim.

CARRIED.

9. Information Sharing

9.1 Meeting with Imam at Downtown Mosque.

- Thursday January 26, 2012, 5:45 p.m.
- R. Cameron, Z. Siddiqui, J. Hayat will be attending the meeting. Other members are also requested to attend.

9.2 Black History Month event presented by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, February 23, 2012, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., to be held at City Hall.

10. Next Meeting – February 28, 2012.

11. Adjournment.

W. Morrison/J. Rhodes

To adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

CARRIED.