



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday April 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, Nerene Virgin, Roger Cameron, Zafar Siddiqui, Ashok Kumar, Baldeep Virk

Also Present: Maxine Carter, Jennifer Mak, Jaffar Hayat - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office, Judith Ngan (HWDSB)

Regrets: Taimur Qasim (on leave), City Councillor Brian McHattie, Amirah Hassan, Jessica Brennan

Absent: Wael Ghuneim, Ismail Baris Oz

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- All were welcomed

2. Declaration of Interest.

- None declared

3. Review of Agenda.

Under New Business:

- 8.1 Volunteer Advisory Appointments
- 8.2 Hamilton Police Services 2014 – 2015 Business Plan Meeting
- 8.3 Access & Equity Bylaw and Policy Review
- 8.4 South Asian Heritage Month Display

W. Morrison/T. Childs

To accept the agenda with the additions.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes March 27, 2012.

T. Childs made a correction to item 8.3 stating that Hope in the Cities is a program of Initiatives of Change and therefore not two separate initiatives.

N. Virgin/W. Morrison

That the minutes of March 27, 2012 be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

5.1 Housing and Homelessness, Housing Services: The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.

- M. Carter contacted Jennie Vengris, Housing and Homelessness Action Plan to request on behalf of the committee, that she attend the June 2012 meeting to provide an update regarding the Homelessness Action Plan. M. Carter will follow-up.

5.2 Hillbilly Heaven Co-op Placement

- J. Ngan, HWDSB reported that another co-op placement was offered to the son of Hillbilly Heaven's owner. However, J. Ngan does not know if this placement was accepted by the student.

- 5.4** J. Ngan, HWDSB is drafting a memo for the 2012 Asian Heritage Month celebration to inform principals about the event and to raise more awareness and encourage more involvement for next year.

6. Presentations

There were no presentations at this meeting.

7. Business Items: Work Plan Reports.

7.1 Report from the Chair

- The Chair reviewed outstanding business from 2009 – 2011 with the Committee and all items were brought up-to-date.

7.2 Sub-committee I – Symposium & Resource Centre

- Sub-committee I will be meeting Monday, May 14, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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

- Sub-committee II will arrange a meeting at Stonechurch Mosque and develop a schedule for future meeting dates at different mosques.

Z. Siddiqui/A. Kumar

That the Chair draft a letter directed to the president of the Muslim Association of Hamilton, Hamilton Mountain Mosque respectfully requesting a meeting with the members to discuss a number of issues that have been brought to committee's attention.

CARRIED.

Sub-committee II will develop a time table over the next year to schedule meetings with other community and faith groups to discuss and problems solve around relevant issues and concerns.

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

- There was confusion about the membership of Sub-committee III, so M. Carter will re-send the membership list to the Committee.

7.5 Racist Incidents report & follow-up:

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

- Stg. Nancy Lantz responded to the 718 sentencing principle indicating that although the HPS will request that this principle be applied in all cases deemed as a Hate Crime, the application of this principle is decided by the courts and does not always have an explanation as to why it is applied or not applied.

7.5.2 2011 Hamilton Police Services (HPS) Hate Crime Report

- According to the Spectator article, the HPS attributes the spike in hate crimes to increased HPS community outreach which has resulted in an upsurge in reporting.
- A total of 54 events were classified as hate/bias motivated crimes in 2011 compared to a total of 34 hate/bias motivated crimes in 2010.
- The Committee would like a breakdown of the 54 incidents.

R. Cameron/N. Virgin

That the Chair respectfully request, that Councillor McHattie send a letter on behalf of CAR to the Hamilton Police Services, Chief Glenn de Caire requesting a detailed breakdown of the 54 hate crimes reported in their 2011 Hate Crimes Report.

CARRIED.

R. Cameron/N. Virgin

That the Chair respectfully request that Councillor McHattie ask for the evidence to support the assertion that the increase in crime reporting is due to increased outreach efforts and not an increase in hate crimes.

CARRIED.

A. Kumar/N. Virgin

That Chair respectfully request Councillor McHattie, to invite Chief Glenn de Caire to a future committee meeting to discuss the Hate Crimes 2011 Year End Report.

CARRIED.

- Committee was informed by J Ngan that the Hamilton Police Services community outreach has included working with the HWDSB in which Police Resource Officers make presentations to secondary schools.

T. Childs/B. Virk

That staff contact HPS to invite a Police Resource Officer to a future committee meeting to discuss the outreach program and the presentations being conducted at schools.

CARRIED.

7.5.3 SIU Presentation

- M. Carter has been in contact with the HPS SIU resource person requesting a presentation from the SIU preferably at the June 2012 meeting to discuss the details of how the investigative process is conducted. M. Carter is awaiting a response.

7.5.4 Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD)

- A draft of the Citizen Committee Report to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee outlining the benefits to joining the CMARD was presented to the Committee.

A. Kumar/Y. Chung

That the Citizen Committee Report requesting membership on CMARD be approved and be forwarded to Mayor Bratina and Council for consideration.

CARRIED.

- M. Carter will inform the Committee of when the report will appear at the next GIC.

8. New Business.

8.1 Volunteer Advisory Appointments

- City Clerks will be putting out calls for new members; there are possibly 4 appointments for CAR.

8.2 HPS 2014 - 2015 Business Plan Meetings

- HPS has sent a request for two CAR members to attend their 2014 - 2015 business plan meetings on June 5, 2012 from 1 to 4 p.m. and June 14 and 15, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- T. Childs and A. Kumar have tentatively volunteered to attend the meetings.

8.3 Access and Equity Bylaw and Policy Review

- M. Carter gave an overview of the Bylaw and Policy Review project; planning tools to aid in the process of developing the City bylaws, policies, procedures, programs, services, and opportunities
- Two members from each advisory committee is required to form an advisory committee for the project to provide input. Participants will be required to attend two evening meetings, approximately three hours long, one at the end of May and one at the end of June. The dates are to be determined. R. Cameron and N. Virgin have volunteered to attend these meetings.

8.4 South Asian Heritage Month

- A. Kumar inquired about whether it would be possible to have a South Asian Heritage Month display in a locked cabinet at City Hall. M. Carter will look into this and get back the South Asian Heritage Association.

9. Information Sharing

- There will be a South Asian Heritage Month event hosted by the South Asian Heritage Association held at Ancaster Secondary School on Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

10. Next Meeting – May 22, 2012.

11. Adjournment.

A. Kumar/B. Virk

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