



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

Present: Winston Morrison, Tyrone Childs, Roger Cameron, Jessica Brennan, Zafar Siddiqui, Taimur Qasim, Amirah Hassan, Baldeep Virk, Maher Nachwati
Also Present: Maxine Carter, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa, Jennifer Mak - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office,
Regrets: Jovaune Rhodes, Ashok Kumar, Yim Chung, Nerene Virgin, Marlene Dei-Amoah, Tanja Roglic (HWDSB)
Absent:
Chair: Roger Cameron - Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions.

All were welcomed.

2. Declaration of Interest.

None declared.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda.

To add item 7.2 Grant Process to the agenda

J. Brennan/Z. Siddiqui

That the agenda be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Presentations.

4.1 There were no presentations.

5. Approval of Minutes.

5.1 November 26, 2013.

Correction to item 6.3 Subcommittee II – Report

The second bullet should read:

- The Committee met and discussed exploring ways that the racial diversity in the City's leadership including Council, Boards and Committees could be increased. The members felt that one way to increase diversity could be done through raising awareness of the political process, such as the upcoming municipal elections including Trustee elections, Provincial spring elections and Federal elections. The committee will continue to explore other models such as the Nova Scotia school board's model to address racial diversity in Trustee representation and the City of Toronto's Diverse Youth Council. The focus on the workshops would be to educate about the political process and dispel various myths about Canadian politics.

B. Virk/W. Morrison

That the minutes of November 26, 2013 be approved, as amended

CARRIED.

5.2 Business Arising From Minutes.

The committee discussed the issue of new and emerging community groups including existing community groups that have tried to access the City's community grants, in the past, with not much success. The committee members requested that staff invite the Community Partnership Program Coordinator and Director, to a CAR meeting, to discuss possible barriers in this program, that maybe affecting new, emerging and long-term community groups from accessing the City's granting processes. Councillor McHattie informed the committee that John Hertel is the new Director who has responsibility for this program and that he and his staff are planning to review the Community Partnership Program very soon.

6. Business Items:**6.1 Chair's Report.**

The Chair provided an update on the progress of sub-committee I's activities and stated that he was pleased with CAR's draft presentation to Council regarding the Anti-Racism Resource Centre.

6.2 Sub-committee I – Education, Training, Resource Centre Project.

Members include: J. Rhodes, W. Morrison, T. Childs, A. Hassan, Y. Chung and B. Virk.

Anti-Racism Resource Centre Project

- Members of Sub-committee I will be presenting the Anti-Racism Resource Centre project results to AF&A, on January 20, 2014. A draft presentation has been prepared by the sub-committee. Subcommittee I will be meeting with Councillor McHattie to review the draft presentation.
- The draft presentation will be emailed to the committee for their information and comments.

Black History Event 2014 – Update.

- Invitation letters have been sent to downtown schools for the Black History month event on February 14, 2014.

B. Virk/M. Nachwati

That the report of Sub-committee I be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

6.3 Sub-committee II – Awareness Raising, Participatory Democracy, Community Outreach & A/R Policies and Racist Incidents' Report.

Members Include: J. Brennan, Z. Siddiqui, M. Nachwati, A. Kumar, N. Virgin and Marlene Dei-Amoah.

- The Committee discussed exploring ways that the racial diversity in the City's leadership including Council, Boards and Committees could be increased. They feel that the workshop idea could work very well

- M. Nachwati stated that he knows of an MP, that may potentially be a speaker at the workshops
- The Muslim Association of Hamilton and the Muslim Council of Greater Hamilton regarding the committee's request to have a meeting, has suggested a Friday in January for such a meeting to dialogue with the members.

Z. Siddiqui/A. Hassan

That the report of Sub-committee II be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

6.4 Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) - City of Hamilton Membership - Next Steps.

No report. M. Carter and N. Virgin to schedule a meeting.

6.5 Let's Talk about Reducing Hate in our Society - Discussion.

- Sandra Wilson, HPS is requesting that CAR help organise the event for 2014
- Sub-committee II will discuss the event at the March meeting and meet with Sandra Wilson in April to determine the extent of their participation the fall event
- M. Carter to invite S. Wilson, HPS to the March or April CAR meeting

J. Brennan/Z. Siddiqui

That the "Let's Talk about Reducing Hate in our Society" initiative be forwarded to sub-committee I for follow-up.

CARRIED.

6.6 Hamilton Media Advisory Council - Update.

- CAR had a representative on the Hamilton Media Advisory Council in the past and would like to see this position reinstated at the table of the Media Advisory Council
- J. Rhodes will report back at the next meeting
- Councillor Brian McHattie suggested sending a letter to Howard Elliott at the Hamilton Spectator seeking his assistance and guidance on getting a CAR representative on the Advisory Council

7. New Business.

7.1. Lincoln Alexander Day – Discussion.

The Chair will include this item in the presentation on January 20th, 2012. The Lincoln Alexander Day Bill is coming up for 2nd reading in Federal Parliament and it was suggested that Council consider supporting a recognition event in collaboration with CAR, once the Bill gets approved.

T. Childs/W. Morrison

That CAR recommend to the Mayor and Council that they give consideration to the Lincoln Alexander Day Bill and plan a celebratory event in recognition of the day. That a CAR member be represented on the planning committee of such a celebratory event.

CARRIED.

8. Correspondence.

No correspondence.

9. Information Sharing.

9.1 Asian Heritage Month in May.

- The committee discussed inviting diverse religious and cultural groups to recognize their events at City Hall citing the recent Diwali celebration as an example.
- The committee will review the calendar of religious and cultural events, to see which events could be supported and which may be added to the calendar.
- **South Asian Heritage Association of Hamilton & Region** – The committee discussed working with and supporting the South Asian Heritage Association of Hamilton's event in May.

W. Morrison/T. Childs

That the Chair write a letter to the South Asian Heritage Association of Hamilton to offer support and a desire to work with the association to promote and plan for the celebration of May as Asian Heritage month.

CARRIED.

9.2 Study on Diversity in Corrections.

- The committee reviewed a study being conducted on diversity in corrections. It is conducted by an organization formed to review inmates incarcerated for unusual lengths of time and not being released. It may be a helpful resource for the Bernie Miller case.

9.3 HCCI meeting with Hamilton Immigrant Business Community.

- HCCI is hosting a meeting with Hamilton's Immigrant business community on December 12th at 6-8pm, City Hall, room 264.
- Attendees will be offered door prizes and chamber membership discount.

9.4 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board EQAO results was handed out to members for information purposes.

10. Next Meeting.

January 28, 2014.

11. Adjournment.

J. Brennan/M. Nachwati

That the meeting be adjourned, at 8:35 p.m.

CARRIED.