



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

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

1. Welcome and Introductions.

All were welcomed.

The chair expressed heartfelt thanks and appreciation to current and previous committee members, for their hard-work in bringing the resource centre recommendation to fruition.

2. Declaration of Interest.

None declared.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda.

B. Virk/N. Virgin

That the Committee Against Racism agenda for September 23, 2014, be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Presentations.

4.1 There were no presentations.

M. Carter informed the committee that Carmen Pietroniro, HPS Hate Crimes Unit, could not attend meetings on Tuesdays due to his schedule. He is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The committee agreed to conduct an email poll and change October's meeting to the 4th Monday of the month, as an exception to accommodate C. Pietroniro's schedule.

5. Approval of Minutes.

5.1 July 24, 2014.

N. Virgin/B. Virk

That the Committee Against Racism minutes of July 24, 2014 meetings, be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

5.2. Business Arising from Minutes.

No business arising.

5.3. Letter from the Downtown Mosque.

Staff reported that there was no response from Imam Sayed Tora.

6. Business Items:

Work Plan Reports.

6.1 Chair's Report.

R. Cameron thanked committee members for their perseverance during the resource centre process. He also cautioned that the process was still ongoing, so members should remain proactive and see the project to fruition.

J. Rhodes/B. Virk

That the Committee Against Racism's Chair, R. Cameron's, report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

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.

6.2.1 Anti-Racism Resource Centre Project.

R. Cameron reported that the resource centre project was approved by the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee and will now be forwarded to Council, for final approval.

R. Cameron stated that Sub-Committee I will continue to lead the project and bring it back to CAR for review and support. He also invited interested members to join Sub-Committee I.

J. Rhodes/B. Virk

That the Committee Against Racism Sub-Committee I report be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

6.2.2 Grants Review Update.

The committee suggested requesting a list of organizations who received grants for 2014, to see if the funding trends are the same as 2013. Committee is considering exploring seeking out some of the denied applicants and inviting them to a meeting, to explain their experience. In addition, the committee would like to get a copy of the recent reviews conducted of the grants and funding process.

CAR to invite staff involved in the grant process to an upcoming meeting after all the documents are received and reviewed by CAR.

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

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

N. Virgin reported that Sub-committee II was on hold due to the resource centre project, but will now proceed with the ongoing work of the committee. The committee will coordinate a date for the next meeting, preferably in the afternoon, before or around 3:00 pm.

Z. Saddiqui will try to arrange a meeting for the subcommittee members with Imam Sayed Tora. Staff will forward Z. Saddiqui a copy of the letter that was mailed to Imam Tora. Z. Saddiqui will inform the committee about the outcome of his efforts.

J. Rhodes provided an update on the Bernie Miller case informing the committee that Bernie Miller, unfortunately had a heart attack and was in critical condition. The committee members congratulated J. Rhodes on his dedication to fighting for justice for Bernie Miller.

A. Kumar/T. Childs

That Committee Against Racism's sub-committee II report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

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

R. Cameron suggested that the committee should organize a joint celebration for the CCMARD membership and the proposed resource centre, upon approval. Sub-committee II should initiate the process and explore tying it into Black History Month 2015 events. The committee could also explore inviting other municipalities closest to Hamilton, as well as community groups, organizations to participate.

J. Rhodes/T. Childs

That the Committee Against Racism's, sub-committee II draft a plan for the committee to consider, regarding a joint event to promote and highlight the City's membership in the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) where the proposed Anti-Racism Resource Centre can be a central focus and explore the possibility of inviting other municipalities, community groups and organizations.

CARRIED.

6.5 Hamilton Media Advisory Council – Update

Staff reported that Councillor McHattie will contact Howard Elliott to find out why there has been no response to CAR's letter of application from Hamilton Media Advisory Council.

6.6 Elections 2014

Committee discussed the upcoming election and noted the limited diversity among candidates. Members were encouraged to attend political debates and forums to express their concerns and vote on Election Day.

7. New Business.

7.1 Letter to the Downtown Mosque.

Discussed – see item 5.3

7.2 Follow up re: Deputy Clerk’s report: “Establishment of the City of Hamilton’s Advisory/Subcommittees/Volunteer Committees and Community Engagement Process- GIC September 17, 2014

The committee discussed the recent report and Council’s recommendation to form a committee to review the Deputy Clerk’s recommendation. R. Cameron requested that members interested in sitting on the committee should let staff know as soon as possible.

R. Cameron, J. Rhodes and N. Virgin expressed interest and requested to be duly informed about next steps.

8. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

9. Information Sharing.

9.1 Community Trust Building Fellowship

T. Childs shared information about the Community Trust Building fellowship program in the U.S for members interested in participating. The program provides resources for individuals and organization/community leaders, to engage in dialogues around race relations and build trust in the community. It costs approximately \$2000 and travel expenses are extra. Interested members can contact T. Childs for additional information.

9.2 Gandhi Peace Festival

A. Kumar shared information about the Ghandi Peace festival taking place on October 4, 2014, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at Hamilton City Hall. This year’s festival celebrates the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. Attendance is free and all are welcome to attend.

9.3 Step Up & Step Out with the Inkspots.

J. Rhodes informed members about the Inkspots performing on October 19, 2014, at Sarcoa at 5:30 pm- 11:30 pm, as a fundraiser, to support kids programming at Step by Step, a City Housing Hamilton initiative. Tickets are \$75.

10. Next Meeting.

October 28, 2014.

11. Adjournment.

A. Kumar/B. Virk

The Committee Against Racism meeting of September 23, 2014 was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.