



## Hamilton

**MINUTES**  
**IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday April 9, 2015 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Room 192**

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**Present:** Aspy Ayrton, Paul Duc Thinh Hoang, Joana Fejzaj, Minh Trinh, Sumaira Khurshid, Dena Honig, Thayra Marting  
**Also Present:** Maxine Carter, Cindy Mercanti – City of Hamilton - Access & Equity Division; Grace Maciak – Ontario Works Program  
**Regrets:** Zafar Siddiqui, Maher Hamade (on leave)  
**Absent:** Isaac Acquah, Abdulhaliq Herati  
**Guests:**

**Chairperson:** Dena Honig chaired the meeting

**1. Welcome and Introductions.**

- All were welcomed, at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

- None declared.

**3. Approval of Agenda.**

- The agenda was reviewed
- Addition of item 9.1, Mentorship for Newcomers (Employment)

**A. Ayrton/P. Duc Thinh Hoang**

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee agenda, of April 9, 2015, be accepted, as amended.

**CARRIED.**

**4. Approval of Minutes.**

**4.1 March 12, 2015.**

- The minutes were reviewed
- Page 3, item 6.5, change “Linda Button” to “Lily Lumsden,
- Page 3, item 6.5, change “YWCA” to “YMCA”

**A. Ayrton/P. Duc Thinh Hoang**

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee minutes, of March 12, 2015, be approved, as amended.

**CARRIED.**

**4.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC), (Item 6.5)

- D. Honig provided an update regarding the HIPC meeting that she attended and the request that was made for the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee to discuss bus passes for newcomers.

**J. Fezaj/A. Ayrton**

That the Immigrant & Refugee Advisory Committee Chairperson, Dena Honig, proceed to invite Lilly Dunson, from the YMCA, to the next committee meeting, to discuss the bus pass initiative.

**CARRIED.**

**5. Presentation.**

**5.1 Discussion re: Review of City Volunteer Advisory Committees - Janet Pilon, Manager, Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk; Mark Weingartner, Senior Policy Analyst, Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives.**

- The committee provided input and had a discussion with J. Pilon & M. Weingartner, regarding the re-establishment of Council's Volunteer Advisory Committees, including the value, benefits, challenges and relevance to the Council, the City and to the broader community.

**6. Business Items.**

**6.1 Work Plan & Sub-committee Reports.**

**6.1.1 Education.**

- Tabled.

**6.1.2 Employment.**

- Tabled.

**6.1.3 Partnerships with Service Providers - Newcomer Welcome Package.**

- Tabled.

**6.1.4 Refugee Claimants.**

- Tabled.

**6.2 Welcome Open House – September 26, 2015 Planning Mtg.**

- Committee members were asked to attend the April 30, 2015 service provider/agency meeting, at City Hall, in room 264. A. Ayrton, D. Honig, T. Marting, J. Fezaj & Minh Trinh will attend.
- J. Fezaj will call the agencies to remind them of the meeting, on April 30. M. Carter to provide her with a list of contact information.

**6.3 Sanctuary City – Follow-up.**

- Tabled.

**6.4 Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee Action Items and Initiatives Presentation.**

- Tabled.

**6.5 Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC).**

- Tabled.
- D. Honig will update the committee, regarding her meeting with the HIPC, at the May 14, 2015.

**7. Review and Comment on Reports, Legislation and Studies.**

- There were no reports.

**8. Correspondence/Current Affairs.**

- There was no correspondence.

**9. New Business.**

**9.1. Mentorship for Newcomers (Employment).**

**P. Duc Think Hoang/T. Marting**

That the Immigrant & Refugee Advisory Committee's Chairperson, Dena Honig, invite Oliver Price, of the Employment Work Group, Workforce Planning Hamilton, to share information about the Immigrant Mentorship Program, at the Committee's May 14, 2015 meeting or at a future meeting that can accommodate his schedule.

**CARRIED.**

**10. Information Sharing.**

**11. Next Meeting Date.**

- The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2015.

**12. Adjournment.**

**T. Marting/P. Duc Think Hoang**

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee meeting, of April 9, 2015, be adjourned, at 8:30 p.m.

**CARRIED.**