



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Room 192

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

Absent:

Chair: Jovaune Rhodes (Vice-Chair)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- All were welcomed.

2. Declaration of Interest

None declared.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

B. Virk/A. Kumar

That the Committee Against Racism's agenda, for April 28, 2015, be accepted, as presented

CARRIED.

4. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 March 24, 2015.

The committee members reviewed the minutes and it was noted that Ashok Kumar and Nerene Virgin were not present at the March 24, 2015 meeting. Item 5.1, the date of the meeting needs to be corrected to Tuesday January 27, 2015.

B. Virk/M. Dei-Amoah

That the Committee Against Racism minutes of March 24, 2015 be approved, as amended.

CARRIED.

5.2. Business Arising from Minutes

5.2.1. 2015 Budget Submission

- The 2015 business plan budget has been submitted to Council

5.2.2. Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre - Community Truth Hearings on Poverty and Equity

- M. Carter and J. Rhodes attended the Community Truth Hearings in which community members shared their personal experiences of living in poverty
- J. Rhodes reported that the Committee was invited to be part of the expert panel. The role of the panellists was to listen to community members' experiences of poverty and consider ways to address poverty with their respective organizations
- The Committee will discuss potential recommendations at the next meeting

5.2.3. Re-establishment of Volunteer Advisory Committees

- The Deputy Clerk's report will be completed once every volunteer advisory committee has participated in the consultation with Janet Pilon and Mark Weingartner
- The report will not be shared with the advisory committees until it has been submitted to the General Issues Committee (GIC) meeting on June 17, 2015

6. Business Items:

Work Plan Reports

6.1 Chair's Report

There was no report.

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

- The committee revisited the purpose of the Anti-Racism Resource Centre and the roles and responsibilities of the Manager and board members.
- Committee also discussed the concept of having a non-profit structure and being operated and housed by a host organization
- Currently, the host organization, the location of the Centre, and the nature of the potential partnership are to be determined

6.2.2. Meetings with Councillors

- B. Virk reported that the Committee is planning to meet with the Councillors who have questions and/or concerns about the Anti-Racism Resource Centre and to hopefully answer specific questions raised at Council on September 24, 2014;
- these meetings will be scheduled before the GIC meeting on June 17, 2015

A.Kumar/M. Nachwati

That Committee Against Racism's Sub-Committee I report be approved, 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 M. Dei-Amoah

There was no report.

6.4 Hamilton Media Advisory Council

- The Hamilton Media Advisory Council (HMAC) is hosting a "Story Meeting" on Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton Spectator Auditorium; Committee members are invited to attend and share a story related to racism or immigration-related media coverage

6.5 Hamilton Police Service Hate Crimes Unit

- Detective Carmen Pietroniro will confirm whether he is available to attend the Committee meeting on Monday, May 25th to discuss the 2014 Hamilton Police Service Hate/Bias Statistical Report
- M. Carter will email Committee members the 2014 Hamilton Police Service Hate/Bias Statistical Report

6.6 Black History Event

- W. Morrison commented that the Black History event "The Past, the Present, and the Future" on March 27 went well; students enjoyed the quizzes and winning prizes
- This year's theme dovetailed with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- The presentations by J. Rhodes, T. Childs, and Kayla Perrin were based on personal recollections and family histories
- Councillor Green donated \$350.00 to a fundraiser that St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School was organizing

6.7 South Asian Heritage Month

- The South Asian Heritage Association of Hamilton and Region has two upcoming events:
 - 1) 11th Annual Festival of South Asia:** May 2 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Bishop Ryan School
 - 2) South Asian Arrival Day Celebration:** May 5 at 6 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall

7. New Business

- 7.1** There was no new business.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Lincoln M. Alexander Award 2015

- Minister Michael Chan, Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade, sent a letter regarding nominations for the 2015 Lincoln M. Alexander Award
- This award honours young persons who have demonstrated "exemplary leadership in contributing to the elimination of racial discrimination"
- M. Carter will send the nomination guidelines to the Committee

9. Information Sharing

9.1 CHCH Square Off

- J. Rhodes reported that Desmond Cole, writer at the Torontoist, was a guest on the CHCH program "Square Off" during the week of April 20 to discuss the article he wrote in Toronto Life Magazine, "The Skin I'm in: I've been interrogated by police more than 50 times - all because I'm black"
- In the article, Mr. Cole discusses his experiences of being interrogated and carded by the police.

T. Childs/W. Morrison

That the Chair of the Committee Against Racism request a copy of the transcript of this program so that the committee can hear the program in its entirety.

CARRIED.

10. Next Meeting - To be confirmed

- The next meeting may occur on Monday, May 25, depending on Detective Carmen Pietroniro's availability
- M. Carter will confirm the date with the Committee

11. Adjournment

B. Virk/W. Morrison

That the Committee Against Racism meeting, of April 28 2015, be adjourned, at 8:20 p.m.

CARRIED.