



Hamilton

MINUTES

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (I&R)

Thursday, December 8, 2016 - 6:30 p.m.

City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Room 192

Present: Aspy Ayrton, Holly McKean, Suad Badri, Eman Ismail-Elmasri, Leo Johnson, Zenaida Roque Cruz, Coleen Gallant, Noor Nizam, Maria-Ines Arratia, Marie Robbins, Huzaifa Saeed, Ramon Petgrave

Also Present: Councillor Donna Skelly, Maxine Carter, Jennifer Mak –Access & Equity Division

Regrets: Juanita Maldonado, Funmi Akiode, Sam Abraham, Shaheen Gill, Dena Honig, Yohana Otite, Mir Nazmul Islam, Beau Daniels

Absent:

Guests:

Chair Person: Zenaida Roque Cruz

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- All were welcomed and the meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.
- All members introduced themselves.

2. Declaration of Interest.

- None declared.

3. Approval of Agenda.

A. Ayrton/H. McKean

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee agenda of December 8, 2016 be accepted as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes.

4.1 November 10, 2016.

- The minutes were reviewed and amended as follows:
 - Correct the spelling of Zenaida Roque Cruz's last name as Roque Cruz.

A. Ayrton/M. Robbins

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee minutes, of November 10, 2016 be approved, as amended.

CARRIED.

4.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Tell your Story

- R. Petgrave shared his story of immigrating to Canada from Jamaica

6. Presentations

6.1 Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council

- The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council was not available to attend this meeting
- The Committee reviewed notes from the presentation and would like to ask the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council about the process for and requirements of becoming a member of this Council

7. Business Items.

7.1. Work Plan Date and Structure of Meeting

- The Committee will have a work plan brainstorming session at the January meeting
- In order to ensure that the meeting is efficient, the Chair and Vice Chair have asked Committee members to email suggestions of the issues and/or topics that they would like the Committee to address/undertake this term
- L. Johnson highlighted that issues and topics should be connected to the Committee's Terms of Reference
- Staff will send a copy of the Committee's work plan from the last term to the Committee

L. Johnson/E. Ismail-Elmasri

That Immigrant and Refugee Committee members submit issues and/or topics via email to the Chair and Vice Chair by January 6, 2017 in preparation for the brainstorming meeting on January 12, 2017.

CARRIED.

8. Correspondence/Current Affairs.

There was no correspondence.

9. New Business.

9.1. Open House

- Discussion of the open house was tabled to the next meeting.

10. Information Sharing.

10.1. Drumming Circle and Workshop

- L. Johnson informed the Committee that there is a drum circle and workshop on December 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the YWCA located at 75 MacNab Street South
- Everyone is welcome to participate and interested participants can bring their own drum or rent a drum for \$10
- Admission is free of charge but participants are encouraged to make a donation to Empowerment Squared to support the School Readiness Program for newcomer Syrian Kids and Youth

10.2. WorkLINC

- E. Ismail-Elmasri shared flyers for the Immigrants Working Centre's WorkLINC classes
- WorkLINC is a five-week industry-specific workplace preparation program that offer industry-specific language training, certifications, and workplace orientation

11. Next Meeting Date. Thursday, January 12, 2017

12. Adjournment.

A. Ayrton/R. Petgrave

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee meeting, of November 10, 2016, be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

CARRIED.