



Hamilton

MINUTES

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (I&R)

Thursday, February 9, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.

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

Present:	Aspy Ayrton, Suad Badri, Eman Ismail-Elmasri, Leo Johnson, Zenaida Roque Cruz, Coleen Gallant, Maria-Ines Arratia, Marie Robbins, Huzaifa Saeed, Ramon Petgrave, Sam Abraham, Dena Honig, Beau Daniels, Mir Nazmul Islam, Yohana Otite, Juanita Maldonado, Mane Arratia, Suad Badri, Eman Ismail-Elmasri,
Also Present:	Councillor Donna Skelly, Maxine Carter and May-Marie Duwai-Sowa-Human Rights, Access & Equity, Cindy Mercanti, Lana Whittaker-Customer Service, Grace Maciak-Ontario Works,
Regrets:	Sylvia Gill, Noor Nizam, Holly McKean
Absent:	Funmi Akiode,
Guests:	Nicole Longstaff-Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
Chair Person:	Zenaida Roque Cruz

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- All were welcomed and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- All members introduced themselves.

2. Declaration of Interest.

- None declared.

3. Approval of Agenda.

- Addition of Item 6.2 City Apps-Cindy Mercanti and Lana Whittaker
- Addition of Item 7.2. Conference Board of Canada update-M. Robbins

A. Ayrton/C. Gallant

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee agenda of February 9, 2017 be accepted as amended.

CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes.

4.1 December 8, 2016.

- The minutes were reviewed and amended as follows:

A. Ayrton/M. Robbins

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee minutes, of December 8, 2016 be approved, as presented.

CARRIED.

4.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- Staff will email Committee members dates for work plan discussion

M. Robbins/L. Johnson

That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee schedule an additional date to meet with the purpose of discussing and drafting the Committee's work plan for the rest of the term.

CARRIED.

5. Tell your Story

- Tabled.

6. Presentations

6.1 Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council-Nicole Longstaff, PMP, Senior Project Manager, Newcomer Resettlement Neighbourhood & Community Initiative Division

- Nicole Longstaff presented a status update on behalf of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Syrian Newcomers to the I&R Committee
- The Update Report was presented to Council on January 23, 2017 highlighting the following:
 - Highest priority advocacy items from Employment, Language and Skills Development Working Group and the Health Working group.
 - Waitlists for English classes, child care and Oral health coverage
 - Lack of interpreters with experience in medical setting

- Other issues identified for attention: mental health (sub-group established), family reunification, cultural competency (frontline staff/volunteers)
 - An evaluation of the Hamilton municipal, community response to Syrian newcomer resettlement is currently in progress. Results of evaluation expected by May of 2017
- N. Longstaff will forward the power point presentation to the committee via the staff liaison
- Councillor Skelly commented that the real issues are housing and jobs. The committee agreed to invite Jo-Anne Priel, General Manager of Emergency & Community Services Department and Dr. E. Richardson, Public Health Department to attend a future Immigrant & Refugee Advisory Committee meeting to share their thoughts on where emphasis and dollars should go with respect to Newcomer Resettlement
- L. Johnson noted that there were consultations hosted by HIPC in 2008 by the former Manager, Tim Rees; and similar recommendations were made as being presented. At that meeting in 2008 the participants were told that there was no funding to carry out these recommendations
- The Immigrant & Refugee Advisory Committee is concerned that perhaps these recommendations may not be seriously considered and carried forward?
- N. Longstaff provided the following regarding the most recent recommendations:
 - the Federal government funds refugee newcomers settlement supports (Province funds some as well) and that we are requesting more funding from those bodies (who already provide funding for refugee newcomer resettlement) with the recommendations we put forth from the Mayor's office. There is funding, but we need more of it. Whether there is funding (or not) to carry out the recommendations made depends on the decision of the Federal, Provincial government bodies.
- The members of Immigrant and Refugee Advisory expressed strong interest in having a standing seat of membership on the HIPC
- L. Longstaff concurred that the Committee will have a seat at the Council table.

M. Robbins/Y. Otite

That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee receive the presentation regarding the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council by N. Longstaff.

CARRIED.

6.2 City Apps Project – Presented by Cindy Mercanti and Lana Whittaker, Customer Service, Corporate Services

- The committee was provided with an overview of the project and asked to provide input to the following questions:
- What City Apps do you currently use?
- What functions do you like?
- What functions do you wish could be improved?
- What accessibility feature do you expect in an app?
- What apps would be of interest to you?
- What city web pages do you frequent?
- List of apps?

The committee had the following comments:

- What is the cost to download the App?
- How will the service user get access from a place that does not use data?

L. Johnson/J. Maldonado

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee receive the presentation regarding the City Apps project, made by C. Mercanti and L. Whittaker.

CARRIED.

7. Business Items.

7.1 Work Plan Date and Structure of Meeting

- Tabled to the additional meeting date.

7.2 Conference Board of Canada-M. Robbins

- M. Robbins asked the staff to share her information gathered from the Conference Board of Canada relating to the Committee business, by email to the rest of the committee.

M. Robbins/D. Honig

That M. Robbins share any relevant information gathered from the conference that she will be attending at the Conference Board of Canada in May 2017, with the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

8. Correspondence/Current Affairs.

There was no correspondence.

9. New Business.

- There was no new business

10. Information Sharing.

10.1 2017 Fundraising Gala – Global Citizens

- L. Johnson announced that there is a fundraising gala for newcomer children on March 24, 2017 at Liuna Station in which Lawrence Hill will be the keynote speaker

10.2 Global Hamilton - Hamilton Hive

- One open spot on the board; must be between the ages of 18 and 40 to serve on the board (globalhamiltonconnect.ca)

10.3 Z. Roque Cruz and Y. Otite

- Mental health and Wellness Week Partnership between HCCI and Good Shepherd – they will be organizing focus groups
- Multicultural Health Week – May 6
- Councillor Skelly- contact my office regarding accessing funding

11. Next Meeting Date. Thursday, March 9, 2017

12. Adjournment.

J.Maldonado/H. Saeed

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee meeting, of February 9, 2017 be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED.