



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday January 22, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

Present: Jovaune Rhodes, Amirah Hassan, Dr. Winston Morrison, Ashok Kumar, Maher Nachwati, Marlene Dei-Amoah
Also Present: Jennifer Mak, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office
Regrets: Councillor Brian McHattie, Maxine Carter, Tyrone Childs, Zafar Siddiqui, Jessica Brennan, Yim Chung, Baldeep Virk, Taimur Qasim (on leave), Roger Cameron, Nerene Virgin
Absent:
Guest: Craig Marenick, Rayeh Kashef Al-Ghekiea, Anne-Marie Montpetit, Fariha Husain, Alex Pasquini (McMaster University Co-op students), Rachel More, Lisa Nussey (Hamilton Friendship Association with Cuba)

Meeting was chaired by Co-chair, Jovaune Rhodes.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- All were welcomed.

2. Declaration of Interest.

- None declared.

3. Review of Agenda.

A. Hassan/ W. Morrison

To accept the agenda, as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes, November 27, 2012.

W. Morrison/ A. Kumar

That the minutes of November 27, 2012 be approved, as presented.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

- None.

6. Presentations.

6.1 Doreen Johnson, Hope in the Cities - Postponed

- Staff to follow up with Doreen Johnson.

- 6.2** Lisa Nussey, Hamilton Friendship Association with Cuba.
 Lisa Nussey and Rachel More attended the meeting to present an overview about the mandate and activities of the Hamilton Friendship Association with Cuba. The Association was founded on May 26, 2007, with a mandate to further strengthen the ties of friendship between the peoples of Canada and Cuba. The Association charges a \$20 membership fee per year, which may be waived due to financial difficulties. As part of its initiatives, the Association in collaboration with Bryan Prince Bookseller, is organizing an event titled “Rhythm of Resistance”, on February 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., to celebrate Black History Month, as well as a fundraiser for the Cuba Hurricane Relief fund. Committee members were encouraged to attend the event.

7. Business Items: Work Plan Reports.

7.1 Report from the Chair.

- No report, as the Chair is absent.

7.2 Sub-committee I – Symposium & Resource Centre.

- The Sub-committee did not meet, due to scheduling conflict. J. Mak provided an update on the Resource Centre Project, informing the committee that 10 political science and social work students had signed up to conduct research for the project. Five students attended the meeting and were introduced to committee members. The students will work mostly with sub-committee I and the Access & Equity staff, attending meetings and reporting back on the progress of their research. A work plan has been drafted to guide the progress of the project.
- J. Mak also updated the Committee about preparations for the Black History Month event, indicating that the Bicentenary Exhibit had been booked and scheduled to arrive at City Hall on January 26, 2013. The Committee also had the option of booking the “And Still I Rise” exhibit, at the Committee’s request. It was also suggested that the Committee select a date for the event and the two options were February 15/16 and March 1/2. The Committee agreed to host the event on March 1st and 2nd, so they could have more time to plan. The Committee to request Judith Ngan and Jessica Brennan, to facilitate participation from the HWDSB.

A. Hassan/ W. Morrison

That the Sub-committee I’s report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

7.3 Sub-committee II – Participatory Democracy, Community Outreach & A/R Policies and Racist incidents report & follow up.

- No meeting and activity to report from the previous month. It was reported, however, that the Committee is currently developing a questionnaire, scheduled to be sent out in March and they will report back to the committee at the February meeting.

- It was also reported that the Hamilton Police Service, in collaboration with the Hamilton Mountain mosque, the City of Hamilton’s Access and Equity Office and several other partners, are hosting a town hall event, on ending hate in Hamilton, on January 24, 2013, at 7pm. Committee members were encouraged to attend.
- There was concern about the pace of action/progress regarding the committee’s work plan activities. M. Dei-Amoah expressed interest in joining sub-committee II, to assist in facilitating the committee’s work.

W. Morrison/ A. Hassan

That the Sub-committee II’s report be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

7.4. Sub-committee III – Education, Training & Awareness-Raising.

- The Committee has not met, due to members’ conflicting schedules. The Chair attempted to schedule a meeting but to no avail. M. Carter to follow-up with the sub-committee Chair.

A. Kumar/ W. Morrison

That the Sub-committee III’s report be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

7.5. Follow-up HPS 2011 Hate Crimes Report.

- Tabled.

7.6. Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination - City of Hamilton membership - next steps.

- Tabled.

8. New Business.

8.1. Gandhi King Event.

- A. Kumar provided an overview of the event to committee, stating that the planning committee was seeking members and a representative from CAR would be useful on the committee. M. Dei-Amoah agreed to represent CAR on the committee, as well as attend the event on behalf of CAR. M. Nachwati also expressed interest to attend the event, but Co-Chair advised that, a request for expression of interest be forwarded to members not present at the meeting, so they also could have an opportunity to participate. J. Mak agreed to e-mail committee members and request immediate response, so the tickets could be purchased as soon as possible.

8.2. John C. Holland Awards.

- The Committee discussed the upcoming awards and requested expressions of interest from members to attend the dinner and award ceremony. J. Rhodes expressed interest to attend the event, however, J. Mak will e-mail committee members, requesting expressions of interest for both events, and request

immediate response with their intentions, so the attendees are confirmed and tickets purchased as soon as possible.

A. Hassan/A. Kumar

That two members attend the John C. Holland Awards on Saturday February 2, 2013 and two members attend the Living Gandhi and King Today event on Friday March 22, 2013.

CARRIED.

9. Information Sharing.

- No information shared at this meeting.

10. Next Meeting - February 26, 2013.

11. Adjournment.

A. Kumar /W. Morrison

To adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED.