



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday March 26, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

Present: Roger Cameron, Jovaune Rhodes, Amirah Hassan, Winston Morrison, Nerene Virgin, Tyrone Childs, Marlene Dei-Amoah
Also Present: Maxine Carter, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa, Jennifer Mak - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office, Tanja Roglic (HWDSB)
Regrets: Ashok Kumar, Jessica Brennan, Maher Nachwati, Yim Chung, Zafar Siddiqui, Baldeep Virk, Taimur Qasim (on leave), City Councillor Brian McHattie

Absent:

Chair: Roger Wayne Cameron

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 – February 26, 2013.

A. Hassan/W. Morrison

That the minutes of February 26 be approved, as presented.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

5.1 At the request of the Committee for a resource person, Tanja Roglic has been appointed to represent the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board at the Committee Against Racism meetings. The committee welcomed Tanja to the table.

5.2 Living Gandhi and King Today Event.

J. Rhodes, M. Dei-Amoah, Maher Nachwar and T. Childs attended the Living Gandhi and King Today Dinner. J. Rhodes, T. Childs and A. Dei-Amoah shared feedback from their respective perspectives on the success of the event. It was noted that there was a little confusion regarding seating when one of the members arrived but for the most part the evening went smoothly.

Attendees were pleased with the guest speaker, Daryl Davis, author of “Klandestine Relationships”. J. Rhodes proposed the possibility of inviting the guest speaker for a future committee event.

- 5.3 Letters of invitation, as requested by the committee were sent to R. Summers (Fire), Rob Simmonds (Fire Chief), Reverend Horton and Chief Glenn De Caire, of the Hamilton Police Services. All were invited to attend a future committee meeting to discuss various issues.

6. **Presentations.**

- 6.1 There were no presentations at this meeting.

7. **Business Items:**

Work Plan Reports.

7.1 **Report from the Chair.**

The Chair did not have a report for the March meeting.

7.2 **Sub-committee I – Education, Training, Resource Centre Project.**

Members include: J. Rhodes, W. Morrison, T. Childs, A. Hassan, Y. Chung and B. Virk.

7.2.1. Black History Event.

Sub-committee I reported to have met and advised the committee of the date change for the Black History event, which has been rescheduled to May 24 & 25, 2013. Invitations will be sent to local schools, community leaders and marketplace vendors.

It was suggested that the school invitations focus largely on cluster north and west schools.

T. Roglic will assist with facilitating the school invitations and inquire about the availability of the Jazz band from McNab Secondary School. T. Roglic sees the event as an opportunity to get youth involved in activities, as high school students need 40 volunteer hours to graduate.

7.2.2. Anti-Racism Resource Centre Project.

Sub-committee I provided updates on the progress of the resource centre research. Survey results were trickling in and students are in the process of compiling the data and drafting a report.

Political Science students will be presenting their research findings to Sub-committee I on April 2, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. and the committee is invited to attend.

W. Morrison/A. Hassan

That the report of Sub-committee I be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

7.2.3. HWDSB Black History Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the HWDSB Black History Committee and its current status, as some members noted that it has become dormant.

T. Roglic indicated that the committee was having trouble finding a new Chair.

T. Roglic will explore the possibility of reviving the committee, as it is currently on hold for a year.

7.3 Sub-committee II – Participatory Democracy, Community Outreach & A/R Policies and Racist Incidents' Report & Follow-up.

Members Include: J. Brennan, Z. Siddiqui, M. Nachwati, A. Kumar and N. Virgin, Marlene Dei-Amoah.

Sub-committee II has a meeting scheduled for April 9, 2013.

A meeting at the mosque is pending follow-up, since the committee's last visit.

W. Morrison/T. Childs

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

CARRIED.

7.4 Follow-up HPS 2011 Hate Crimes Report.

M. Carter to follow up with Councilor McHattie regarding the Hate Crimes report.

7.5 Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD)- City of Hamilton Membership - Next Steps.

T. Childs has volunteered to assist M. Carter in developing the status update document, that will indicate where the City of Hamilton is, with regards to the Common Commitments of the CCMARD and the City's Plan of Action.

8. New Business.

8.1. Request from J. Vengris Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

M. Carter advised the committee that J. Vengris has respectfully requested to appear at a future meeting of the committee, to discuss the findings of the Housing Homelessness Strategy report. She is also open to hearing any feedback from committee members. Copies of the report were handed out to committee members, in advance.

8.2 Pan Am Social Inclusion Committee.

The committee would like to get an update regarding the status of the Pan Am games Social Inclusion Committee that was set up at least 2 – 3 years ago, by the City of Hamilton. The committee's representative to the Pan Am Social Inclusion Committee attended the first meeting and has not had any communication from the committee since that time.

N. Virgin/A. Hassan

That staff investigates and report back on the status of the Pan Am Social Inclusion Committee and why the representative of the Committee Against Racism has not been invited back to participate on this committee.

CARRIED.

8.3 City of Hamilton Workforce Census.

The Committee request that staff provide an update on the demographic information that was requested from Human Resources, after their December 2011 presentation of the Workforce Census. M. Carter informed the committee that Human Resources is working on gathering the requested drill down data. However, this request has presented greater difficulty in capturing further details. It is quite likely that this request must be obtained through further research, which will be at a cost.

Staff will follow-up with the staff person responsible in Human Resources and report back at a future meeting.

N. Virgin/T. Childs

That staff follow up with Human Resource staff responsible for the Workforce Census, to inquire as to the status of the committee's request for a more detailed breakdown of the relevant Workforce Census data.

CARRIED.

- 8.4** J. Rhodes discussed the idea of increasing the profile of the Black History Program each year. He feels that the committee should consider proposing this event as a larger community event with a project outline and budget. Sub-committee I will work on the outline and bring it back to the committee for discussion.

9. Information Sharing.

9.1 Angela Davis

Free public lecture by activist Angela Davis, at the LIUNA Station, on March 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., hosted by McMaster University.

9.2 Hamilton Police Services (HPS) Event

HPS follow-up event, "Continuing the Conversation: Reducing Hate in Our Society: Fostering A Culture of Respect", scheduled for May 1, 2013. Final event details to follow.

9.3 HWDSB Social Justice Fair

T. Roglic informed committee members about the HWDSB annual Social Justice Fair, at the LIUNA Station, scheduled for May 16, 2013, at 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Committee was encouraged to participate and this is a good opportunity to engage youth.

T. Childs/ A. Hassan

That committee participate in the HWDSB Annual Social Justice Fair, at the LIUNA Station, on May 16, 2013 and that staff request a booth, on behalf of the committee.

CARRIED

N. Virgin will meet with M. Carter to review committee materials for the event.

10. Next Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2013.

M. Carter to invite Maureen Brown to the April meeting to present report findings.

11. Adjournment.

A. Hassan/J. Rhodes

To adjourn the meeting at, 8:35 p.m.

CARRIED.