



Hamilton

MINUTES

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (I&R)

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

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

- Present:** Suad Badri, Beau Daniels, Amed Farah, Dena Honig, Eman Ismail-Elmasri, Leo Johnson, Holly McKean, Yohana Otite, Ramon Petgrave, Marie Robbins, Zenaida Roque Cruz, Huzaifa Saeed
- Also Present:** Nadia Olivieri, Human Rights, Diversity & Inclusion (Staff Liaison), Grace Maciak, Councillor Donna Skelly
- Regrets:** Mané Arratia, Aspy Ayrton, Sam Abraham
- Absent:** Sylvia Shaheen, Noor Nizam
- Guests:**
- Chair Person:** Zenaida Roque Cruz

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone, calling the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

(D. Honig/H. McKean)

That the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee approve the agenda of November 9, 2017 as presented. **CARRIED**

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST- None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(A. Farah/M. Robbins)

That the minutes of June 8, 2017 be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

4. Presentation -none

5. Business Items/Discussion Items

5.1 Terms of Reference Review

The terms of reference are to remain as presented. The committee members recommend that in 2018 the terms of reference be reviewed and edited at the beginning of the new term and subsequently reviewed yearly within the 4 year term.

MOTION: Committee Mandates

(D. Honig/ A. Farah)

That in the new term a review of I&R Mandates proceed and appropriate changes made to reflect the current mandates. **CARRIED**

5.2 Committee Roles and Responsibilities Review

Members agreed that the focus of the committee is to advise council as noted in the terms of reference and mandate.

5.3 Attendance

Members noted that if Child minding is available, attendance of some members may be improved. Staff Liaison, Nadia Olivieri, is to collect any available options through discussion with SWC. SWC is presently piloting a child minding program during their committee meetings.

5.4 Membership Status

(Y. Otite/H. Saeed)

With regret, the I&R Committee receive and accept the resignation of AsypyAyrton, for medical reasons. **CARRIED**

Staff Liaison, Nadia Olivieri, is to provide to AsypyAyrton, a note of appreciation for his dedicated service.

5.5 Budget Approval

Budget was approved at October 18, 2017 emergency meeting and signed by the Chair at tonight's meeting.

5.6 Open House Working Group Update

Members discussed partnering with HIPC for the Newcomer's Day.

Members discussed the utility of having a separate event that focused on City of Hamilton services.

MOTION:I&R Open House Subcommittee
(H. Saeed/A. Farah)

That the collective I&R committee through, the Open House working group, consult with HIPC and provide direction as to how to facilitate the participation of access to COH services information to Newcomer's Day. **CARRIED**

5.7 Housing Working Group Update

The following areas of interested were highlighted as areas where the I&R committee can provide some useful information to COH Council

- Shelter usage by Newcomers and Refugee
- Newcomers and Refugee have extended stays
- Staff at shelters have limited expertise in this area (that is, how to apply for status, how to find suitable housing, etc.)
- Gentrification of Newcomers – Greenwin is an example of the Cycle created – testimonials are being collected with the aim of identifying a means to advocate against gentrification and provide legal aid to Newcomers when they are requested to sign forms regarding their home. Videographer who may be able to help was identified. This is relevant to the present Downtown Development. Where are bigger families going to reside if units are likely going to be a maximum of 2 bedrooms.
- Landlord and tenant Act can be offered in different languages. Presently Hamilton City Housing has an English only landlord and tenant handbook; however they are working on a handbook in Arabic and 2 other languages.

MOTION: Housing Working Group Presentation to GIC
(A Farah/H. McKean)

That the Housing Working Group presents their issues to CIC in March of 2018. **CARRIED**

- A review is need to the effects of "Designated Destinations for Newcomers –e.g. 150 Sanford. Newcomers end up in a community where everyone has the same experience. Is this a hindrance to the Newcomer and their experience? Members agree that community "hubs" can be good but they also need to be inclusive of the broader community.

MOTION:Shared experiences opportunity
(H. Saeed/A. Farah)

That Staff Liaison, N. Olivieri invites the Director of Community and Social Services, Community Housing to an I&R Committeemeeting to hear and discuss Newcomers experiences in Designated Destinations. **CARRIED**

5.8 Employment Working Group Update

WorkLINC is a 5 week program for food/ construction and manufacturing industry certification and portfolio development. It is a 3-part program. The program focuses on work in specific industries, and builds skills over three distinct training phases.

- **PHASE 1:** Participants enhance soft skills and English language skills with a focus on the language of the industry.
- **PHASE 2:** Building on language, they gain the certifications and direct knowledge required to perform the job, for example GHS-WHMIS, Health and Safety, Working at Heights and Food Handling where needed.
- **PHASE 3:** Participants experience an orientation to the workplace itself. This includes a practice interview, mentoring and job shadowing, and an interview with a partner employer as well as hands on practice. In addition, we prepare a comprehensive portfolio to assist our clients/students in showcasing their skills.

The WorkLINC program is designed to complement the regular LINC program in their home school.

MOTION: Employment Working Group Presentation to GIC
(L. Johnson/A. Farah)

That Council consider through some sort of 2018 employer recognition, employers who hire Newcomers and that such award/recognition serve as an appropriate incentive to other COH employers. **CARRIED**

5.9 Education Working Group Update

- The Education Working Group will present the new mandate of this working group at the next meeting (December 14, 2017).
- The issue at hand is the number of Newcomer student dropping out of school- typically Newcomers kids put 3 grades behind due to language skills and end up aging out of school or dropping out.

MOTION: Education Working Group
(L. Johnson/H. Saeed)

That Staff Liaison, N. Olivieri invites Grace Mater to speak to Committee about available early education funding. **CARRIED**

5.10 Presenting to Council – see Motion in 5.7

5.11 Outstanding Business Items –n/a

6. Notice of Motion –n/a

7. Motions – see Motions listed in 5.1, 5.4, 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9

8. Other Business

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, December 14, 2017

9. Adjournment

(H. Saeed/L. Johnson)

That the Immigrant & Refugee meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.