



Hamilton

MINUTES

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Thursday, April 5, 2018 – 5:30 P.M. City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Room 264

Present: Marilyn Wright, Connie Bellamy, Deborah Elmes, Khitanya Petgrave, Sheryl Green, Scott Cruickshank
Regrets: Patty Lawlor, Allan Loft
Absent: Sheryl Green
Also Present: Councillor Aidan Johnson – Ward 1
Betsy Pocop – Human Rights, Diversity & Inclusion (staff)
Adrian Page – Human Rights, Diversity & Inclusion (staff)
Shylo Elmayan – Urban Indigenous Strategy; Community and Emergency Services
Victoria Bomberry – Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton

Chairperson: Marilyn Wright

Opening

- C. Bellamy did an opening

Welcome and Introductions

- All were welcomed
- Apologies expressed as the March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather

1. Council Decision- Indigenous Art at LRT stops

- The LRT (Light Rail Transit) is a project by Metrolinx and Government of Ontario, with support and coordination from the City of Hamilton
- There was a motion in January to have Indigenous art at LRT stops
- Ken Coit – public art director indicated there is a historic Indigenous trail where the LRT will be travelling through
- Council received feedback from Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) in the fall about the project
- The initial request was to possibly include artefacts at the LRT stops, however with consideration given to feedback received from the AAC to not have artefacts included due to their cultural significance this will not be pursued

- Councillor Johnson attended a meeting with Metrolinx, S. Elmayan was also in attendance, and the possibility of including art and/or information on electronic panels was discussed; the electronic panels would help mitigate the possibility of vandalism and damage
- Consultation will continue to discuss who will be responsible for choosing the art for the stops; there are a number of processes at Metrolinx to confirm what can be included
- Questions/Feedback from the Committee:
 - How long will the art be on display before it is changed?
 - Electronic panelling allows for more displays and options
 - Question submitted by P. Lawlor: Is there a subsequent document that acknowledges/includes the input from our ACC meeting?
 - The items was discussed verbally but may not have been captured in the minutes
- Councillor Johnson offered to update the Committee on future discussions with Metrolinx
- Committee members discussed that members of the community may have collections of pictures that could be used for display with monetary compensation
- Councillor Johnson apologized for a previous incident regarding the artwork on the second floor of City Hall in which the Committee was mistakenly included

2. Changes to the Agenda

- Item 5.1 moved to first – Council Decision - Indigenous art at LRT stops
- Addition of Item 6.1 – Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

D. Elmes/K. Petgrave

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accepts the agenda of April 5, 2018, as amended

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Interest

- There were no declarations of interest

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

C. Bellamy/D. Elmes

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accepts the minutes of February 1, 2018 as presented

CARRIED

4. Presentations

4.1 Point in Time Connection: V. Bomberry

- Volunteers are needed to assist with the survey
- There will be an orientation session on April 22 at 4pm, it will be 4 hours in length and will take place at the McMaster Continuing Education Centre
- There will also be an event at Spice Factory for Indigenous participants and volunteers
- There will be in-person training at 2pm on April 17th
- Anyone with questions are welcome to contact S. Green or V. Bomberry

5. Discussion Items

- M. Wright shared a copy of the Two Row Times with the Committee, in particular their full page spread of the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- B. Pocop to look into having UNDRIP laminated for display at City Hall or in the Committee display cabinet

The Committee agreed to have S. Elmayan speak to Item 5.3 then discuss Item 5.2

5.3 Urban Indigenous Strategy Update

- Community engagement events being planned to engage youth
- Blanket exercise at the Library had over 100 participants
- S. Elmayan presented an update at the Healthy and Safe Communities meeting in March 2018; the meeting began with a Smudging Ceremony and the use of Indigenous Medicines Policy was approved
- There will be youth workshop next week with the themes of: people, spirit
- An information fair will be held on June 2 for the community on City services; it will be held from 10am – 2pm at Right On Target at Centre Mall
- Committee members unanimously supported co-hosting the information fair
- Committee members were asked to contact S. Elmayan if they are available to help at the Information Fair
- Committee members to consider providing financial support for the Information Fair
- There will be a Storytelling event in June– soaring spirits festival, touching on the theme of land

5.2 Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Theme: People

CTA 88 – support for Indigenous Games

- Support for Little NHL, the event is held in Mississauga the last few years, and likely in the upcoming years also

- The City to consider subsidies; share/promote free recreation passes. An example of this is that the Health Centre provides swim passes; The City to support families to access hockey and sports in Hamilton
- Consider having lacrosse and hockey players at the professional level reach out to the community, perhaps through S. Elmayan, to connect with community to inspire youth to be active in sports
- Athletes can promote themselves and their sport and provide support to break down stereotypes and engage in public health aspect
CTA 92 – access to equitable jobs, job creation, and education opportunities in the corporate sector
- Increase support for young people in the trades
- Paid internship with City of Toronto- useful example and good for capacity building

Theme: Land

- Recognizing that connection to the land is fundamental
CTA 43 – adopt and implement UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People), covers all aspects of life
CTA 44 – development of a national action plan to achieve goals of UNDRIP
- Respect for self-determination and allow for communities to determine use of funds
- Look at countries who have implemented UNDRIP to see what actions they have taken toward implementation and the results
- Consideration for language as a barrier and how to make UNDRIP accessible
CTA 47 – all levels of government to rescind doctrine of discovery and terra nullius
Film: “All That Our Hands Have Done” – speaks to the contributions of Indigenous peoples; it promotes accomplishments to youth and government
- This Call to Action speaks to consideration for traditional land and knowledge particularly around use of land (example: building developments and zoning in City of Hamilton)
- Food sovereignty is also a major topic that is connected to land and land sovereignty

- S. Elmayan requested ideas for displays at City Hall for Indigenous History Month

6. Other Business

6.1 OAHS (Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services)

- As of April 1, 2018 units will be transferred from Urban Native Homes Incorporated to OAHS
- M. Wright advised that the Aboriginal Health Centre will provide services to tenants of OAHS as the organization (OAHS) will only act as a landlord
- The Committee requested that a letter, introducing the Committee and extending an invitation to attend a future meeting, be sent to the OAHS

C. Bellamy/D. Elmes

That a letter be sent to the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services to the attention of the Executive Director to congratulate them on their new role and invite them to attend a future Committee meeting

CARRIED

6.1 May Agenda

- Members would like to take time at the meeting in May to review budget and plan for upcoming events

6.2 Next Meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for May 3, 2018

Closing

- V. Bomberry did a closing

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.