Minutes
IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 14, 2019
City Hall 71 Main St. W.
Room 192/193, 6:30pm

Present: Eman Ismail-Elmasri, Marie Robbins, Beau Daniels, Dena Honig, Suad Badri, Mir Islam, Yohana Otite, Sam Abraham

Also Present: Nadia Olivieri, Staff Liaison

Regrets: n/a

Absent: Leo Johnson, Mané Arratia

Chair: Suad Badri

Welcome and Introductions (6:40 pm)

1. Approval of the Agenda
   (M. Islam/M. Robbins)
   Approve the Agenda of March 24, 2018 as presented  
   CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest -none

3. Approval of Minutes
   (D. Honig/M. Islam)
   Immigrant and Refugee Meeting Minutes of Oct 11, 2018 approved as presented.  
   CARRIED

4. Presentations – Conor Flood
   HSR Conor Flood, Coordinator, Customer Experience and Innovation Transit (HSR), City of Hamilton
   Revision the HSR project – put together with McMaster Civil Engineering Project
   To engage with the entire community reflection of what the community wants
   - Report to council in Spring 2020
   - Survey takes about  20 minutes
   - Data is base on postal code – not asking for demographic information.
   - Presently 4500 respondents, looking for a minimum of 5500 respondents as a minimum
- Closing at the end of March 31, 2019
- Working with Operations (Bus Operators- staff) to identify who speak different languages and may be familiar with the community.
- Had consulted with HIPC and realized that the translation piece was a lessoned learned
- Community engagement is really going to try to address some of these issues.
- Eman to speak: there is an opportunity to develop relationships with ESL
- How does HSR help Immigrants to get settled as they have specific needs.
- McMaster has identified community engagement as a key aspect of informing the project.
- Dr. Moataz Mohamed – Assistant Professor Department of Civil Engineering

5. **Business / Discussion Items**

5.1 Housing Working Group Update  
-no update available

**FYI: Employment – Immigration and Refugee Federal Government** – have funding available for agencies with programs geared to Immigrants and Refugee.  
HIPC having the “Annual Event” at the end of March 25 or 26 (during work day 11:00 to 2:00 with lunch provided). This is a networking session for different informal settlement providers.  
Information is available on the HIPC site.

5.2 Employment Working Group Update  
- Suad asking for help with the development of an Employment Award

5.3 Education Working Group Update – defer to next meeting  
- The Chair encourages the sub committee to meet.

5.4 **Membership Status**  
(D. Honig / S. Badri)  
That the resignation of Holly McClean be accepted as requested.  
CARRIED

6. **Other Business**

6.1 The Committee would like to generate ideas for New Comer Day Update:  
Friday June 14, 2019 is the established date.  
Citizen enrolment Ceremony a goal but not yet confirmed.
There was a suggestion to utilize a Passport stamping concept to encourage circulation – an idea from the past used by I&R with little success.

Time of the event shortened to 11-3;
Need to focus on social media marketing and specific information sharing.
Entertainment to continue; possible art competition suggested.
Suad is part of a sub committee-trying to think of a way to collect information to evaluate the day: there was a suggestion to put ipads out at key locations to collect information.
School Board participation in the day can be access through Yohana- need to connect as soon as possible.

INFORMATION SHARING
DZ Truck License preparation Program- have to be an Ontario Works Recipient
Professional Mentorship – opened to everyone Tuesday March 19, 2019
Conference Board of Canada Immigration Summit (May 2019) info-graph presented to members– interesting statistics presented.

7. Adjournment – Having addressed all items on the agenda, the meeting adjournment 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2019
City Hall Rm 192/193