



Hamilton

Minutes

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 11, 2021

6:30pm-8:30pm

Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Present: Dina Honig, Aref Alshaikhahmed, Rami Safi, Grace Maciak, Councillor Maureen Wilson

Also Present: Cole Gately- Staff Liaison, Diversity & Inclusion, Office
Taline Morris- Admin Assistant, Diversity & Inclusion
Shelly Hill - Senior Project Manager, Urban Indigenous Strategy
Nicole Jones,- Urban Indigenous Strategy

Regrets : Leslyn Gombakomba

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

R. Safi provided a round of welcome and introductions.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)

A. Alshaikhahmed gave a land acknowledgement

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

(Added items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest reported.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

(D. Honig/ A. Alshaikhahmed)

That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee approves the Minutes of February 11, 2021 as presented.

CARRIED

6. STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 9)

i. Urban Indigenous Strategy Program Presentation (Item 9.1)

Shelly Hill Senior Project Manager and Nicole Jones, Project Manager of the Urban Indigenous Strategy, presented to the Advisory Committee for Immigrants and Refugees about the work of the Urban Indigenous Strategy in the City of Hamilton, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation.

N. Jones reported that in 2015 Hamilton City Council passed a motion to develop the Aboriginal Justice Strategy, later renamed the Urban Indigenous Strategy. Some key objectives include; indentifying actions within municipal jurisdictions, Honor Indigenous people history, promote a geater understanding to Hamiltonions through public education and awareness.

According to the 2016 census data, Hamilton has over 17, 000 Indigenous residents. On July 8, 2019 the Urban Indigenous Strategy was fully endorsed by the City of Hamilton. Through community consultation, a list of 40 recommendations, divided into three categories (land, people and spirit) has been created to improve and direct the work of the stragety. Since being endorsed by the City of Hamilton, the Urban Indigenous Strategy has created an implementation

plan which incorporates values, history and teachings of Indigenous people. More information can be found at www.hamilton.ca/urbanindigenouststrategy.

(R. Sami/ A. Alshaikhahmed)

That the presentation from the Urban Indigenous Strategy be received.

CARRIED

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

i. Business arising from previous minutes (10.1)

Staff provided update to previously asked questions. Members inquired if Audit, finance and administration required an additional update or progress report from the committee. Staff advised no other reports were required.

Members also requested an update regarding recruitment of new committee members. Staff advised that the clerk's office is organizing a recruitment.. Staff also updated that virtual delegations are now accepted.

ii. Collaboration with Community Agencies (Item 10.2)

Committee members discussed the future goals of the committee and putting the information learned through presentations into action, and collobaring with community agencies.

Members suggested a motion recommending that City council provide education about Indigenous affairs and history to immigrants and refugees in the City and to allocate financial and human resources needed to the Urban Indigenous Strategy to provide this education. Staff advised that a citizen committee report would be

required. Staff will distribute a copy of the citizen committee report template to committee members.

(R.Safi/ A. Alshaikhahmed)

That the following recommendation be added to the strategic plan of the Urban Indigenous Strategy:

- (a) That an education program be provided to the Immigrants and Refugees community respecting Indigenous affairs and history, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); and
- (b) That the strategic planning around this education program for Immigrants and Refugees include financial and human resource allocations.

CARRIED

The citizen committee report will be discussed at next meeting.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS(Item 13)

i. Mental Health support for Immigrants and Refugees (Item 13.1)

Committee members discussed the need for mental health support within the immigrant and refugee community. R. Safi to invite member of the Canadian Mental Health Association to present on how they are reaching out to marginalized communities with different languages and different resources.

(R.Safi/ D. Honig)

That staff be directed to arrange a presentation from the Canadian Mental Health Association to discuss barriers to accessing mental health services within the immigrants and refugee communities and mental health services available specifically for immigrants and refugees.

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(R. Safi)

That the Meeting for the Immigrant and Refugee Committee be adjourned at 8:24pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2021