

MINUTES

COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

6:30 p.m – 8:15p.m

Present: T. Childs, L. Gombakomba, P. Jeffrey, T. Qasim, A. Law, P. Kajiura (Staff Liaison), M. Bernales (McMaster BSW placement student)

Regrets: M. Dei-Amoah, S., S. Jacobs, Cllr. Naan

Absent:

Guests:

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

T. Qasim called the meeting to order and took roll call.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

L. Gombakomba provided a land acknowledgment.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(P. Jeffrey/T. Childs)

That the committee approve of the agenda with an additional item 7.1. to discuss addressing anti-Asian issues

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1. February 23, 2021

(L. Gombakomba/P. Jeffrey)

That the Committee approve of the minutes from February 23, 2021, as distributed.

CARRIED

5.2. March 23, 2021

(P. Jeffrey/ A. Law)

That the Committee approve of the minutes from March 23, 2021 with the correction to the spelling of P. Jeffrey's name in item 3.

CARRIED

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1. 2021-22 Work Plan – Report from Working Group

(P. Jeffrey, L. Gombakomba)

That, in the absence of some Committee members including the Chair, the Committee defer approval of the work plan to the next meeting.

CARRIED

6.2. Recruitment of New Members

P. Kajiura informed that in response to the committee's motion to request new members to the committee, the clerk's office has begun a process for the Interview Sub-Committee of AF&A to reconvene and look at applications that were presented in the last round of recruitment. The subcommittee will review the applications and determine a process by which they recommend appointees to the committee.

Member expressed disappointment that a new call for applicants was not put out to the broader public to illicit more awareness and to attract diversity in representation from the community, considering changes in the social environment regarding issues of racism.

The staff liaison informed that the Clerk's office is aware that the committee had hoped for an engagement process to solicit new applications, however, their process is to look at past applications. The committee has the option of putting forward a Citizen Committee Report to request new applications.

6.3. Discussion - Correspondence received at October 27, 2020 meeting

The committee will continue to discuss the concerns raised in the letter as an ongoing business item, noting the societal relevance of the issues raised, in these times of the Black Lives Matter movement and the pandemic, and in regard to the lives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) in the Hamilton community.

(P. Jeffrey/ T. Childs)

That the Committee Against Racism has a standing item on its agenda for community updates, where community members can share and discuss events related to racism.

CARRIED

- Committee may choose to respond, keeping in mind that sending correspondence outside of the committee first must be approved by AF&A, and then by City Council.
- Member would like committee to respond in a more expedited way instead of continuing to put item into agenda.
- Member informed that there should be a plan to address letters that the committee may receive later in the future. In the committee's work plan, there is an item regarding responding to events/issues, like the correspondence received. Member suggests moving the workplan item higher in the agenda.

6.4. Clerk's Department, Dec. 11, 2020 re: Advisory Committees and Citizen Committee Report

The Committee's motion, to request that revisions to minutes be seen by the committee, was shared with the Clerk's office. The response is that revised minutes are approved at the subsequent meeting, giving members an opportunity to make amendments.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION/ OTHER BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1. Anti-Asian Racism statement on Public Health webpage

(L. Gombakomba / T. Childs)

Acknowledging the important *Choose Solidarity* message on the hamilton.ca/coronavirus webpage, that the Committee Against Racism send a Citizen Committee Report to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee,

recommending enhancements to the page that acknowledge anti- Asian racism explicitly and provide links to resources to support victims of racism, prevent the spread of misinformation, and provide anti-racism information.

CARRIED

Member informed that there was a CBC article highlighting that in the past year, there were over 100,000 anti-Asian hate crimes reported. Asian communities have been used as scapegoats of the virus. There have been verbal and physical and assaults. There has been discussion to provide supports and recognize and acknowledge the anti- Asian racism.

A. Law will draft the CCR with assistance from P. Kajiura.

7.2 Announcement of John Ariyo's departure

(T. Childs/ A. Law)

That the Committee Against Racism send a note to J. Ariyo manager of community initiatives to congratulate him on his new position and to thank him for his support and service to the committee.

CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

(T. Childs/ L. Gombakomba)

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 8:15PM

CARRIED