



Hamilton

**MINUTES**

**Aboriginal Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, March 4, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.**

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:** Marilyn Wright, Laura Workman, Allan Loft, Patty Lawlor (non-voting), Connie Bellamy, Scott Cruickshank, Cat Cayuga

**Also Present:** Cole Gately –Diversity & Inclusion (staff)  
Shelly Hill and Nicole Jones– Urban Indigenous Strategy  
Taline Morris- Admin. Assistant., Diversity and Inclusion

**1. Ceremonial Activities (Agenda Item 1)**

S. Cruickshank provided a ceremonial opening.

**2. Approval of Agenda (Agenda item 2)**

The following items will be added to the March 4, 2021 agenda:

Item 1: General Information / Other Business - Newspaper Item regarding the Dolly Inn Road Bridge.

Item 2: Staff Presentation - Moving Urban Indigenous strategy presentation up the agenda

Item 3: Discussion Item - Equity Toolkit Added Item

Item 4: Discussion Item - Potential Amalgamation of Coordinating Circle and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee

**(L. Workman/C. Cayuga)**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee approves the agenda of March 4, 2021, as amended.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (Agenda item 4)**

**i. February 4, 2021 (Agenda item 4.1)**

P. Lawlor indicated that there were several errors in draft minutes, would like opportunity for re-draft.

**(Allan Loft/ L. Workman)**

That the minutes of February 4, 2020 be deferred to next meeting for re-draft.

**CARRIED**

**4. Staff Presentation (Agenda item 9)**

**i. Urban Indigenous Strategy Update (Agenda item 9.1)**

N. Jones updated the committee that two weeks ago she had the opportunity to participate in a national subcommittee meeting for the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. All communities in Canada are doing work in response to the calls to justice and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) call to action. Some communities already doing policy development and public art. There is also continued work on the Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girl's toolkit.

They are currently reviewing all the specific indigenous dates of 2021 including National Indigenous People's Day, history month, orange shirt day, missing and murdered indigenous women and girls' days, Inuit day, and national veterans' day. Would like to collaborate with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee regarding some of these events.

S. Hill opened the discussion on possible amalgamation with the Coordinating Circle. Committee members raised their concerns, asked questions and S. Hill answered accordingly. Members of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee expressed concerns over their work being lost in amalgamation. S. Hill suggested members attend the Coordinating Circle's meeting to get a better understanding of how things work. More analysis is still being completed. Next meeting for the Coordinated Circle is March 10, 2021 at 12pm. N. Jones to send meeting information to committee members.

S. Hill also shared that their web department is working on a Canada Healthy Community Grant, doing art with Indigenous groups and artists. They are looking for a community artist that would be willing to undertake an art project from an Indigenous perspective for the summer. Aim is putting Indigenous murals throughout the City.

Members are welcomed to submit names of artists/ groups the believe would be interested.

As previously agreed, S. Hill to disseminate names of members of the Coordinating Circle.

**(C. Bellamy/ L. Workman)**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive the update from the Urban Indigenous Strategy.

**5. Discussion Items (Agenda item 10)**

**i. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Agenda item 10.1)**

Deferred to April meeting as draft minutes were also deferred.

**ii. All Advisory Committee Event Feedback (Agenda item 10.2)**

Staff advised, that the Clerk's office is planning an All Advisory Committee Event. This event would provide an opportunity to learn about other committees, as well as share information about their committees. Staff advised the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, that dates have not been set yet, however, the Clerk's office is looking for feedback on whether this is something the committee would be interested in.

Committee member indicated this should be open to the public. Some members expressed interest in the event, some suggested a meeting of the chairs and vice-chairs may be a better idea and Others indicated they would like to wait for more information prior to making a decision.

**iii. Equity Toolkit (Agenda item 10. 3)**

An update was provided that a copy of the equity toolkit was previously distributed to committee members as well as the reviews and recommendations that were identified by P. Lawlor and C. Bellamy. Feedback was requested from the committee regarding the information they received.

Committee Members discussed whether the Indigenous community was appropriately represented in the Equity toolkit, Including with words and pictures.

It was identified that the term Indigenous may not be sufficient and individuals should be identified more specifically as First Nation, Metis, and Inuit, especially since the toolkit maybe used as an education tool.

It was also identified that National Indigenous Day was misnamed and the month was missing. Suggestions will be made to correct this information.

Committee members reviewed and discussed whether the picture on page 42 of the equity toolkit was inclusive. P. Lawlor will format Equity Toolkit document, then send to M. Wright (Chair) and C. Bellamy (vice-chair) prior to final submission to the Diversity and Inclusion office.

**(C. Bellamy/A. Loft)**

That P. Lawlor will format Equity Toolkit document, then send to M. Wright (Chair) and C. Bellamy (vice-chair) prior to final submission on behalf the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED**

**iv. 2021 Banner Display (Agenda item 10.4)**

Staff provided an update to the committee that the week of June, 21-26, 2021 has been booked. Staff to inquire about the wording of the banner and will report back to the committee.

**v. Potential Amalgamation of the Coordinating Circle and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (Added agenda Item 10.5)**

Members of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee will try to attend the next Coordinating Circle meeting on March 10, 2021 at 12 pm and will report back on experience for the April meeting. M. Wright advised that the Urban Indigenous has reports that they have made for the community that can be located on their website at [www.hamilton.ca/urbanindigenouststrategy](http://www.hamilton.ca/urbanindigenouststrategy). P. Lawlor inquired if there are documents that would be helpful to review prior to the meeting. S. Hill to discuss with N. Jones and report back.

**6. General Information/Other Business (Agenda item 13)**

**i. Newspaper Item respecting a Public Planning Notice regarding Dolly Inn Bridge (Added agenda Item 13.1)**

P. Lawlor reported that the Hamilton Spectator carried a City Notice on January 21, 2021 about the commencement of a study relating to the Valley Inn Road Bridge. The Notice indicated the Study would consider input from various stakeholders including indigenous communities. P. Lawlor asked staff to look into whether someone from the City would

be speaking with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee about this. P. Lawlor to Disseminate copies of the article.

P. Lawlor also advised that there was a full-colored ad in the Hamilton Spectator on February 17, 2021 for LGBTQ Advisory Committee recruitment and asked staff to report back, if possible, on the cost of such ads for future budget considerations.

Staff provided information about the engage Hamilton website (engage.hamilton.ca). P. Lawlor noted that the Engage Hamilton may be better suited to collecting input from individual citizens rather than Committees.

P. Lawlor expressed concern that questions are being asked are not being responded to. Staff reviewed questions that were previously asked by committee members and reviewed answers as provided by the clerk's office.

Committee Members agreed to invite councilor Nann or designate to future meeting. Questions to be prepared in advanced.

## **7. Adjournment (Agenda Item 15)**

A. Loft provided a ceremonial closing.

**(A.Loft/ C. Bellamy)**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 1, 2021.