

MINUTES
Aboriginal Advisory Committee
Thursday, June 3, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.

Due to 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, Chair
Connie Bellamy, Vice-chair
Patty Lawlor, Secretary (ally/non-voting)
Scott Cruickshank, Member

Regrets: Allan Loft, Member

Also Present: Cole Gately, Diversity and Inclusion Facilitator, Human Resources (staff)
Taline Morris, Admin. Assistant II, Talent and Diversity, Human Resources (staff)
Jessica Bowen, Supervisor, Diversity and Inclusion, Human Resources (staff)
Shelly Hill, Senior Project Manager, Urban Indigenous Strategy, Healthy and Safe Communities (staff)
Nicole Jones, Project Manager, Indigenous Initiatives, Healthy and Safe Communities (staff)
Aine Leadbetter, Manager, Elections and Print/Mail (staff)
Councillor Nrindar Nann (guest)

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)

(i) Call to Order (Item 1.1)

M. Wright called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and welcomed guests, A. Leadbetter and Councillor N. Nann.

(ii) Opening Address (Item 1.2)

M. Wright provided the ceremonial opening. She also spoke about the 215 children whose unmarked graves were reported, as discovered, this past week at a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia.

(iii) One-minute Silence (Added Item 1.3)

The Committee observed a one-minute silence as a gesture of respect for:

- the 215 souls that never made it to adulthood;
- the health of a country that allowed this.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

The following agenda items accommodate an unnumbered and omitted item:

Item 10.3 Member Resignation
Item 10.4 Committee Membership
Item 10.5 Election-related Opportunities for Community
Item 10.6 Date of September 2021 Meeting
Item 10.7 LRT
Item 10.8 Residential School Finding – 215 Children
Item 16 Adjournment

The following items are added:

Ceremonial Activities 1.3	One-minute Silence
Discussion Item 10.9	Staff Monitoring of and Reporting on Committee Members' E-connection Status During Electronic Meetings
Discussion Item 10.10	Survey about Recording and Retaining Advisory Committee Meetings
General Information / Other Business 13.3	Truth and Reconciliation Day Update
General Information / Other Business 13.4	Potential Reallocation of King George School
Adjournment 15.1	Closing Address

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That the agenda for the June 3, 2021 meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

CARRIED

M. Wright noted that the Committee's agendas could be streamlined by removing template headings that are consistently not applicable to the Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were none.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (item 4)

J. Bowen confirmed that it was possible to defer approval of the minutes.

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That the minutes of the May 6, 2021 meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be deferred to the Committee's September 2021 meeting.

CARRIED

To ensure minutes continuity for September, there was agreement that P. Lawlor will continue to serve as Secretary in September.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)**
6. **DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**
7. **CONSENT ITEMS (Item 7)**
8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS (Item 8)**
9. **STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 9)**

(i) Urban Indigenous Strategy Update (Item 9.1)

N. Jones provided updates on the following initiatives:

- National Indigenous History Month; and National Indigenous Day
- celebration of Youth Art Exhibit;
- Committee's response to request for pre-taped video remarks for the YouTube virtual event celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day

In response to M. Wright's inquiry about the experience-to-date of the transfer of the of Committee support from Diversity and Inclusion to Healthy and Safe Communities, S. Hill assured the Committee that:

- it should not experience any staff support changes;
- the Urban Indigenous Strategy program is able to accommodate the new workload.

(ii) Aine Leadbetter – Manager, Elections and Print/Mail (Item 9.2)

A. Leadbetter informed the Committee about the research, consultation, and logistical work she's responsible for in relation to planning for the municipal elections upcoming in 2022 and 2026.

In response to questions from Committee members, she acknowledged that:

- she doesn't yet have data about the election participation of Hamilton's Aboriginal population but plans to work with City Lab to acquire some;
- she'll be looking into how best to connect with the urban Aboriginal homeless population;
- she's aware of how important it is to deal with people's post-COVID concerns about "safe" transportation and location criteria.

The Committee suggested that she work with the Urban Indigenous Strategy team to promote targeted voting strategies to the city's urban Aboriginal population.

A. Leadbetter confirmed that she'll e-mail her presentation to Committee members.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

(i) Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Item 10.1)

Committee and staff members reported on the status of tasks assigned to them at the May 6, 2021 meeting.

Tasks not yet completed will roll over into the task list resulting from this meeting.

(ii) Monthly Urban Indigenous Strategy Reporting (Item 10.2)

The Committee secretary requested that the Urban Indigenous Strategy program's monthly oral report become a written report each month in the interests of providing Committee members with advance notice and reducing the minutes workload for the Committee's volunteer secretary. The written report would be part of the agenda package distributed prior to the meeting and included in the minutes package.

S. Hill indicated that the program will comply with the request.

(iii) Membership Resignation (Item 10.3)

N. Jones advised that C. Cayuga had submitted a letter of resignation.

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accepts C. Cayuga's resignation.

CARRIED

(iv) Committee Membership (Item 10.4)

Committee members:

- noted that Committee membership has fallen below the number of appointees allowed for in the Committee Terms of Reference;
- agreed to address the matter of recruitment at the Committee's September meeting.

(v) Election-related Opportunities for Community (Item 10.5)

Deferred due to time constraints.

(vi) Date of September 2021 Meeting (Item 10.6)

There was agreement to meet on Thursday, September 2 prior to Labour Day.

(vii) LRT (Item 10.7)

Councillor Nann reported that an announcement about LRT funding may be forthcoming.

There was agreement to defer further LRT discussion to the Committee's September meeting.

(viii) Residential School Finding – 215 Children (item 10.8)

S. Hill reported that the Urban Indigenous Strategy program assisted the City's Communications department with the City's "Every Child Matters" statement related to the finding of unmarked graves at the Kamloops, British Columbia Residential School site.

In response to M. Wright's inquiry about the City's internal message to staff relating to ongoing training, Councillor Nann replied that, to date, she has had a social meeting with the Mayor and that the Hamilton sign at City Hall plaza may be lit in orange lights.

Discussion about whether the Committee can issue its own statement resulted in Councillor Nann confirming that the Committee can advise Council by making a statement about what happened and presenting recommendations. The statement would need to be submitted by noon on June 8, 2021 to make Council's agenda.

There was agreement that Committee members will meet independently on the weekend to draft a Committee statement for submission to Council.

(ix) Staff Monitoring of and Reporting on Committee Members' E-connection Status During Electronic Meetings (Added Item 10.9)

Since not all Committee members have equal audio/visual access during e-meetings, there was agreement that staff will provide the following support:

- advise Committee members if staff mutes anyone;
- let Committee members know when anyone's connection drops during the meeting;
- provide backup note-taking support if the secretary's connection drops.

x) Survey about Recording and Retaining Advisory Committee Meetings (Added Item 10.10)

Deferred due to time constraints.

11. MOTIONS (Item 11)

(i) Approval of All Advisory Committee Event Date and Selection of a Presenter

N. Jones reported that:

- the date and time for the All Advisory Committee virtual event is Monday, September 27, 2021 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.;
- all Committee members are welcome to attend;
- the Committee is welcome to designate a member to make a five-minute presentation on behalf of the Committee.

(M. Wright/S. Cruickshank)

That Connie Bellamy will deliver a five-minute presentation on behalf of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee at the All Advisory Committee Event on September 27, 2021.

CARRIED

12. NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 12)

13. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)

(i) Secretary Report (Added Item 13.1)

Deferred due to time constraints.

(ii) Bird-Friendly Cities (Item 13.2)

Deferred due to time constraints.

(iii) Truth and Reconciliation Day Update (Added item 13. 3)

Deferred due to time constraints.

(iv) Potential Reallocation of King George School (Added Item 13.4)

Councillor Nann reported that:

- City Council's backing the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services proposal to convert the former King George School into affordable housing;
- the building's currently vacant;
- there's no anchor tenant or partners at present;
- discussion includes a community hub (i.e., arts and education) aspect
- discussion includes the handing over of land.

Councillor Nann offered to her make her speaking notes available to the Committee. The Committee accepted her offer.

14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)

15. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(i) Closing Address (Added item 15.1)

At M. Wright's request, N. Jones provided the ceremonial closing.

(ii) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15.1)

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That, due to exceeded time limits, the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Patty Lawlor, Secretary
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Marilyn Wright, Chair
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Next Meeting: September 2, 2021