

MINUTES
Aboriginal Advisory Committee
Thursday, October 7, 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

Absent: Allan Loft, Member

Also Present: Shelly Hill, Manager, Indigenous Relations, Healthy and Safe Communities (staff)
Sonya Baldwin, Program Secretary, Healthy and Safe Communities, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division (staff)
Kim VanderMeulen, Program Secretary, Healthy and Safe Communities, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division (staff)

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)

(i) Land Acknowledgment

Discussion resulted in agreement to add the City of Hamilton Land Acknowledgment to each meeting's ceremonial activities, effective immediately.

M. Wright made the acknowledgment.

(ii) Call to Order (Item 1.1)

M. Wright called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

(iii) Opening Address (Item 1.2)

M. Wright asked for the Creator's guidance to accomplish all we plan to do with good minds, hearts, tongues, and hearts.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

There was agreement to remove one of the duplicate item 10.1 entries.

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That the agenda for the October 7, 2021 meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

M. Wright questioned why C. Gately's name still appears in the agenda header.

S. Baldwin reported that staff has submitted a request for an update.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

None

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

(i) Minutes of September 2, 2021 (Item 4.1)

S. Hill requested the correction of her position title. Her title is Manager.

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That the minutes of the Committee's September 2, 2021 meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

5. CONSENT ITEMS (Item 7)

M. Wright requested an explanation of this agenda category at the November meeting.

6. STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 9)

(i) Urban Indigenous Strategy Update (Item 9.1)

S. Hill reported on events that took place since the Committee's September meeting: Orange Shirt Day and a Red Dress exhibit at City Hall.

(ii) Urban Indigenous Strategy Reporting to the Committee

P. Lawlor asked about the written staff report. After discussion, there was agreement that S. Hill will continue to report verbally until the City fills the program's vacant position.

S. Hill asked whether Urban Indigenous Strategy staff had always reported on a regular basis to the Committee. M. Wright confirmed that it had.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

(i) Update on Tasks Arising from September 2, 2021, Meeting (Item 10.1)

Committee and staff members reported on the status of tasks assigned to them at the Sept. 2, 2021, meeting.

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

The list resulting from this meeting will include new tasks arising from this meeting.

M. Wright expressed appreciation to P. Lawlor, acknowledging the list's value as a helpful support resource for the Committee.

2022 Bring Forward Item:

- Equity Toolkit Feedback

S. Hill reported that the Equity Toolkit was part of the recommendation report approved at Council last Wednesday. Staff were directed to make the updates based on all the feedback collected and to ensure alignment with the new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework. That work will be completed in 2022 and we will ensure the Volunteer Advisory Committees have another opportunity to review prior to finalizing.

(ii) Residential School Letter of Support Update (Item 10.2)

M. Wright reported:

- on the process of updating the Committee's letter of support to reflect ongoing residential school discoveries and delivering the letter, through staff, to the Mayor and City Council
- that when technical difficulties prevented her from reading the letter virtually at the Council meeting, Councillor Nann read it on behalf of the Committee.

Discussion resulted in the following decisions:

- post the letter on the Committee's City web page, if possible
- arrange for distribution of the letter to Indigenous community agencies
- the Committee should promote awareness of its work by communicating more regularly with the City and relevant community agencies on significant issues.

The Committee accepted, with thanks, S. Hill's offer to post the letter on the site: hamilton.ca/indigenous.

(iii) All Advisory Committees Event on September 27, 2021 (Item 10.3)

C. Bellamy, M. Wright, and P. Lawlor attended the full virtual meeting and reported on their experiences.

M. Wright thanked C. Bellamy for making the Committee's presentation which focused on the residential school letter of support.

C. Bellamy remarked on the high calibre of visual presentations made by some committees.

P. Lawlor commented on some of the concerns many of the committees identified that are similar to our committee experience. They include:

- challenges of working in pandemic (i.e., virtual) conditions,
- maintaining membership numbers,
- meeting quorum
- records maintenance and access to records
- needing more clarity around advocacy
- need for more staff support for identifying shared committee concerns and linking committees on such matters
- inconsistency related to responses from staff, councillors, and council to committee outreach.

She also noted that the City plans to update the Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook within the year.

Discussion resulted in agreement to:

- communicate support for all-committees meetings either semi-annually or annually
- send thanks to C. Kroetsch, chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, for proposing the first all-committees meeting
- ensure all Committee members are aware of all committees and their chairs
- ensure all Committee members have access to the 2020 edition of the Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook.

(iv) Committee Membership Update (Item 10.4)

There was agreement to follow up further with A. Loft about his member status.

(v) Committee Recruitment (Item 10.5)

There was agreement to ask the Legislative Coordinator whether the Committee can initiate recruitment efforts at this time.

(vi) 2022 Banner Booking (Item 10.6)

Discussion addressed the increased number of significant Indigenous occasions, including:

- National Indigenous History Month (June)
- National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21)
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, aka Orange Shirt Day (September 30)
- National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ People (October 4).

There was agreement to continue the discussion about one or more banner bookings at the Committee's November meeting.

(vii) New Banner Planning (Item 10.7)

Discussion addressed the following considerations:

- we need to retire the existing banner due to outdated wording
- what are current banner display site options?
- given the number of Indigenous occasions and potential sites do we need more than one banner with different wording and sizing?
- should stronger visual appeal be part of replacement banner planning?
- what potential is there for the development of a Committee logo?
- what potential is there for collaborating with the Urban Indigenous Strategy program?
- what funding is available from the Committee's current term and reserve allocations?

There was agreement to look further into the matter during October and report at the Committee's November meeting.

(viii) Committee Name Reconsideration (Item 10.8)

S. Cruickshank noted that he had raised this item further to discussion with elders and the naming of Hamilton's own strategy for urban indigenous peoples.

Due to time constraints, there was agreement to defer this to the Committee's November meeting as a high priority discussion item.

(ix) Location of Committee's Approved Minutes (Added Item 10.9)

P. Lawlor noted that she didn't find the approved minutes on the City's Aboriginal Advisory Committee web page and asked where Committee members or members of the public would find them.

Staff advised that the Committee's approved minutes are available through the Office of the City Clerk.

(x) Aboriginal Advisory Committee Page on City's Website (Item 10.10)

Discussion resulted in agreement:

- that the Committee needs a platform for its voice on various positions
- to obtain information about whether the page is restricted to current content or has potential for more scope.

Staff advised that the City is planning to upgrade its website and, in the meantime, the Urban Indigenous Strategy may be able to better support a Committee presence.

(xi) Secretary for November and December 2021 (Added Item 10.11)

Discussion resulted in agreement that P. Lawlor will continue as Secretary for November and December.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Hamilton's Water Problems (New Item)

M. Wright requested that this item be put on the Committee's November agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(i) Closing Address (Item 15.1)

M Wright wished everyone a good and safe Thanksgiving. She noted that the Creator helps everyone but also encouraged everyone to remember the less fortunate.

(ii) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15.2)

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That the meeting be adjourned at 8.00 p.m.

CARRIED

Patty Lawlor, Secretary
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Marilyn Wright, Chair
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Next Meeting: November 4, 2021