



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday April 23, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

Present: Jovaune Rhodes, Winston Morrison, Nerene Virgin, Tyrone Childs, Marlene Dei-Amoah, Baldeep Virk, Jessica Brennan, Maher Nachwati
Also Present: Maxine Carter, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office, Tanja Roglic (HWDSB)
Regrets: Roger Cameron, Amirah Hassan, Ashok Kumar, Yim Chung, Zafar Siddiqui, Taimur Qasim (on leave), City Councillor Brian McHattie
Absent:
Guest: Maureen Brown – Focus Group facilitator, Proposed Anti-Racism Resource Centre Project)

Chair: Jovaune Rhodes, Vice-Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions.

All were welcomed.

2. Declaration of Interest.

None declared.

3. Review of Agenda.

N. Virgin/W. Morrison

To accept the agenda, as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2013.

J. Brennan/M. Nachwati

That the minutes of March 26 be approved, as presented.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

7.2.3 T. Roglic followed up with Gail Belisario, Principal of Equity at the HWDSB regarding the status of the Black History Committee. The decision to suspend the Black History Committee was in part due to staff unavailability and the political climate last fall. There is an opportunity for either the Black History Society to revive the committee or students to take more of a leadership role, with the passing of Bill 13- the Acceptance Schools Act, which give students autonomy to form clubs that they feel aligns with their needs and issues. Jessica Brennan volunteered to follow up.

6. Presentations- Maureen Brown, Facilitator/Consultant, Anti-Racism Resource Centre Project

6.1 Maureen Brown presented a summary of the Anti-Racism Resource Centre consultation report highlighting the following:

- Survey responses were received from 6 organizations
- Responses indicated a clear need for the role that a resource centre could play in enhancing capacity to address the impacts of racism on the lives of Hamilton's racialized citizens.
- The participation from Social Service Agencies funded to provide anti-racism, anti-oppression, diversity and discrimination services was minimal
- It is clear that many of the agencies that serve racialized clients are limited in their ability to address racism-related challenges their clients face.
- Key funding sources/partners were proposed such as foundations, businesses, schools and parents.
- Participants felt that overall the Centre will help create civic health; potentially lower absenteeism and crime; and build community safety and productivity.

M.Carter provided an overview from the two reports on the proposed Anti-Racism Resource Centre project and informed Committee that Sub-Committee I will have the final report for the Committee in September, anticipating that the approved recommendations will be presented to General Issues Committee in October or November 2013.

Members inquired whether there was a social auditor to hold organizations funded to do anti-racism work, accountable for their lack of due diligence. Due to the lack of such a social auditor, committee members suggested that the City of Hamilton could leverage diversity and anti-racism initiatives from through the funded agencies and City Partners. This idea would need to be further discussed and brought back to the full committee for decision

Committee was advised that sub-committee I had been reviewing the list of City funded agencies and projects.

T.Childs/J. Brennan

That Sub-Committee I transfer the list of City funded agencies to Sub-Committee II for follow up action.

CARRIED.

The committee thanked M. Brown for her presentation.

J. Brennan / T. Childs

That the committee accept the Proposed Anti-Racism Resource Centre consultation report delivered by M. Brown.

CARRIED.

7. Business Items:

Work Plan Reports.**7.1 Report from the Chair.**

J. Rhodes (vice-chair) reported that he has been in touch with Daryl Davis on a regular basis. Daryl Davis has indicated that he is willing to come back to Hamilton, on the committee's request.

Correspondence was shared with the committee regarding a letter received from Hamilton Police Services with respect to the follow up on their 2013-2014 Business Plan. The committee expressed their desire to review the Hamilton Police Services Equity Policy and the Anti-discrimination Policy at a future meeting.

7.2 Sub-committee I – Education, Training, Resource Centre Project.

Members include: J. Rhodes, W. Morrison, T. Childs, A. Hassan, Y. Chung and B. Virk.

Sub-committee I provided a report regarding their meeting in April to receive a presentation on the Anti-racism Resource Centre by the students. Committee provided feedback and thanked the McMaster students for their contributions to the project.

Plans are underway for the May 24 & 25 Black History event. Invitations have been sent out and one performance has been confirmed. Next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2013 at 6:00pm.

J. Brennan/M. Nachwati

That the report of Sub-committee I be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

7.3 Sub-committee II – Participatory Democracy, Community Outreach & A/R Policies and Racist Incidents' Report & Follow-up.

Members Include: J. Brennan, Z. Siddiqui, M. Nachwati, A. Kumar and N. Virgin, Marlene Dei-Amoah.

Sub-committee II met on April 9 & 23 to discuss their current work plan. A visit to the Hamilton Mountain Mosque is scheduled for August. Timelines are being worked out. Presentation will be prepared ahead of the event. A meeting is currently being scheduled with the Board of Hamilton Mountain Mosque at the end of May. Date and time to be determined. N. Virgin to present her report on tracking of racist incidents reported, possibly at the May meeting.

W. Morrison/T. Childs

That the report of Sub-committee II be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED.

7.4 Follow-up HPS 2011 Hate Crimes Report.

M. Carter to follow up with Councilor McHattie regarding the Hamilton Police Services Hate Crimes report.

7.5 Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD)- City of Hamilton Membership - Next Steps.

M.Carter and T.Childs will be working on preparing a summary of the CMARD commitments to be presented at a future meeting.

8. New Business.

8.1. Housing and Homelessness Report- Discussion

Tabled to be rescheduled for May meeting.

9. Information Sharing.

9.1 Angela Davis

T.Childs and other members of the committee, attended the public lecture by activist Angela Davis, at the LIUNA Station, on March 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., hosted by McMaster University. T.Childs suggested exploring the opportunity to find out how Angela Davis gets funded to conduct her advocacy work.

9.2 Bernie Miller Hearing

The Chair informed Committee that Bernie Miller is scheduled to appear before the Parole Board in Coburg, Ontario on May 13. The Chair plans to attend the hearing. Committee inquired whether Hurricane Carter agency in Toronto was involved.

T.Childs/N. Virgin

J. Rhodes to contact Hurricane Carter agency to gather more information regarding the Bernie Miller hearing on May 13, 2013.

CARRIED.

9.3 Hamilton Police Services (HPS) Event

M. Carter informed committee that the HPS follow-up event, "Continuing the Conversation: Reducing Hate in Our Society: Fostering a Culture of Respect", was confirmed for May 1, 2013. Committee was encouraged to attend the event. M.Carter to email event flyer to committee. M. Carter advised committee that Sandra Wilson has suggested that CAR host the next anti-hate event with HPS support, in hopes of building a mutual working relationship.

9.4 Neighbourhood Action Strategy Newsletter

M.Carter informed committee about the newly launched Neighbourhood Action Strategy newsletter, developed by newly appointed Community Development workers. M. Carter to email the newsletter link to committee. Funding is available for citizens interested in producing their own neighbourhood newsletters.

10. Next Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2013.

11. Adjournment.

T. Childs/J. Brennan

To adjourn the meeting at, 8:35 p.m.

CARRIED.