



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday February 28, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

Present: Joe Rhodes, Tyrone Childs, Winston Morrison, Mimoza Kajtazi, Yim Chung, Amirah Hassan, Nerene Virgin, Roger Cameron, Jessica Brennan, Zafar Siddiqui, Ashok Kumar
Also Present: Maxine Carter, Jennifer Mak, Jaffar Hayat, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office
Regrets: Taimur Qasim (on leave), City Councillor Brian McHattie, Baldeep Virk
Absent: Wael Ghuneim, Ismail Baris Oz

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- All were welcomed

2. Declaration of Interest.

- None declared

3. Review of Agenda.

Under New Business:

- 8.2 Hill Billy Heaven Co-op Placement

A. Kumar/J. Rhodes

To accept the agenda with the additions.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes January 24, 2012.

W. Morrison/J. Rhodes

That the minutes of January 24, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

5.1 Report from M. Carter on behalf of Fire Chief, Rob Simonds regarding the Fire Fighter Recruitment Process

- 5.1.1 M. Carter was given promotional recruitment material to forward to CAR and other volunteer advisory committees, to distribute widely in the community and to various community networks.
- 5.1.2 The recruitment event on February 9 had good attendance with over 150 attendees; although an exact number of guests was not captured, there was fairly good representation from racialized communities
- 5.1.3 The Chief noted that a cost comparison of recruitment testing fees was under taken across the province, and the results showed that Hamilton's testing fee is cheaper than other municipalities.

- 5.1.4 The Hamilton Fire Services (HFS) is currently working on the 2013 recruitment communication plan and is considering conducting information sessions in French for the next recruitment period.
- 5.1.5 The Fire Department is planning to follow a recruitment process similar to the Hamilton Police Services.
- 5.1.6 CAR will continue to follow-up with HFS recruitment until there is a demonstrable increase in the recruitment of racialized people to the Fire service.

5.2 Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB).

J. Brennan confirmed that either Judith Ngan from HWDSB or her designate, will be attending future committee meetings, as requested.

5.3 Housing and Homelessness, Housing Services: The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.

- Jennie Vengris of Housing Services informed staff that no one from the committee attended the focus group. She would still like to conduct this focus group with members of CAR if there is interest. CAR members said that they did not receive any calls or emails regarding a focus group with Housing and Homelessness project.
- J. Vengris asked staff to email the committee a flyer of the upcoming community check in roundtable session on March 7 at the Freeway Cafe.

6. Presentations

There were no presentations.

7. Business Items: Work Plan Reports.

7.1 Black History Month Event & Presentation to the General Issues Committee (GIC).

R. Cameron thanked Sub-committee I and other committee members who participated in the Black History Month event and who assisted with developing the GIC presentation.

Joe Rhodes provided an overview of the GIC presentation.

7.2 Sub-committee I – Symposium & Resource Centre

- Committee will develop a presentation regarding the feasibility of a Resource Centre, a phone helpline and an awareness campaign.
- R. Cameron has been making presentations to other advisory committees to promote the purpose of the Resource Centre and to investigate if there is the same need identified by other advisory committees.
- M. Carter informed the committee that there have been some meetings with Councillor McHattie, management and staff regarding the possible creation of a Resource Centre (possibly in 2013).

J. Brennan/N. Virgin

That the Chair and other designated members request an opportunity to share the outcomes of CAR's report to General Issues Committee on February 1, 2012 to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Advisory, and the Status of Women committees.

7.3 Sub-committee II – Participatory Democracy & Anti-Racism Policies

- This committee is in the process of documenting stories and articles that have been identified as racial profiling, racist incidents and hate activity. (due November 2012).

J. Brennan/N. Virgin

That Sub-committee II conduct an open forum at the Downtown Mosque to discuss recent incidents of hate and violence directed to the Mosques and its members.

CARRIED.

7.4 Sub-committee III – Education, Training & Awareness Raising

- Currently working on a presentation regarding a Racism Free Hamilton Awareness Campaign for the Resource Centre. (due November 2012)
- May is South Asian Heritage Month: The option of hosting a South Asian Heritage Month event at City Hall or supporting an existing event was put forward.
- Z. Siddiqui will approach the South Asian Heritage committee regarding setting up a display at City Hall or co-hosting an event with CAR in May which is South Asian Heritage Month.

7.5.2 Hamilton Spectator

A reporter with the Spectator, Nicole MacIntyre’s contact information was circulated to the committee members. N. MacIntyre would like to connect with members of diverse communities to give them an opportunity to share their personal stories.

8. New Business.

8.1 Special Investigations Unit investigation involving Constable Ryan Tocher

- Discussion regarding the article “Exclusive: Hamilton Cop subject of third SIU investigation”, Committee members would like more information regarding the Special Investigations Unit (SIU).

A. Kumar/T. Childs

That staff invite a member of the Special Investigation Unit to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the process and protocols when cases arise involving a member of the Police Service.

CARRIED.

The committee would like to give the SIU a general idea of the questions that will be asked.

8.2 Hillbilly Heaven Co-op Placement

J. Brennan reported that the HWDSB has taken a stand against allowing co-op placements at Hillbilly Heaven because the Board feels that the environment in the restaurant is unsafe and not an environment that the BOARD would endorse and supports for student learning.

9. Information Sharing

9.1 March 21 – International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Subcommittee III will meet to discuss whether CAR will host an event or support a pre-existing event to honour this day.

10. Next Meeting March 27, 2012.

11. Adjournment.
T. Childs/J. Rhodes.
Motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.