



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM
Tuesday February 26, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192

Present: Roger Cameron, Jovaune Rhodes, Amirah Hassan, Winston Morrison, Ashok Kumar, Maher Nachwati, Jessica Brennan, Zafar Siddiqui, Tyrone Childs
Also Present: Maxine Carter, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa, Jennifer Mak - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office, City Councillor Brian McHattie
Regrets: Yim Chung, Baldeep Virk, Taimur Qasim (on leave), Nerene Virgin, Marlene Dei-Amoah

Absent:

Chair: Roger Cameron

1. Welcome and Introductions.

All were welcomed.

2. Declaration of Interest.

None declared.

3. Review of Agenda.

W. Morrison/A. Kumar

To accept the agenda, as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes - January 22, 2013.

J. Rhodes/A. Hassan

That the minutes of January 22 be approved, as presented.

CARRIED.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

5.1 Committee members discussed how they can have a member of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), from the Anti-Racism, Equity, English as a Second Language (ESL) and Native as a Second Language (NSL) office represented at the Committee Against Racism table, as they have been for the past 8 or more years. J. Brennan will find out who the new HWDSB representative is and report back to the Committee.

5.2 J. Rhodes and T. Childs attended the John C. Holland Awards. J. Rhodes would like to invite the following two award recipients to a future committee meeting: Reverend George Horton and Hamilton fire fighter, Ron Summers.

Councillor McHattie suggested that the committee invite Fire Chief, Rob Simonds as well, to the same meeting.

J. Rhodes/Z. Siddiqui

That the Committee Against Racism invite Ron Summers, Fire Fighter, City of Hamilton, Rob Simonds, Fire Chief, City of Hamilton and Reverend George Horton, Pastor of HPS, to speak at a future Committee meeting.

CARRIED.

- 5.3** On behalf of the Committee, T. Childs and A. Kumar attended the Hamilton Police Services Business Planning conference to share input in developing the Services' 2013-2015 Business Plan.

The 2013-2015 Business Plan has been released, detailing priority areas: the Committee is specifically interested in Goal 4.4: Increase Diversity within the Organization. To monitor the accountability, progress and outcomes of Goal 4.4, T. Childs suggested requesting periodic reports from the individuals accountable for this item.

T. Childs/B. McHattie

That the Committee Against Racism submit a letter to the Hamilton Police Services, requesting that the Field Support, Human Resources Manager share yearly reports with the Committee Against Racism, regarding how they plan to achieve Goal 4.4: Increase Diversity within the Organization, including any milestones and results.

CARRIED.

In a related matter, J. Brennan noted that the Hamilton Police Services Board had an opening for a Board member which was advertised in The Spectator (the deadline to apply is March 11, 2013). J. Brennan encouraged all committee members to apply.

J. Brennan/J. Rhodes

That staff forward a copy of the Hamilton Police Services Board application to Committee members.

CARRIED.

6. Presentations.

- 6.1** There were no presentations at this meeting.

7. Business Items:

Work Plan Reports.

7.1 Report from the Chair.

The Chair did not have a report for the February meeting.

7.2 Sub-committee I – Symposium & Resource Centre.

Members include: J. Rhodes, W. Morrison, A. Hassan, Y. Chung and B. Virk. J. Mak distributed drafts of the Anti-racism Resource Centre project questionnaire and information letter, as well as a draft Anti-racism Resource

Centre needs-assessment consultation report, to the Committee for review. J. Mak will e-mail electronic drafts of the questionnaire, information letter and consultation report, to the Committee, for further review.

The Black History event has been rescheduled from April 5 to Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13. Sub-committee I will meet Monday, March 11 to plan the event.

W. Morrison/A. Hassan

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.

Sub-committee II last met in December and is developing an information letter to invite community members to attend consultation sessions, to be hosted at some Hamilton mosques, to gather information on their experiences regarding racism and discrimination.

From the consultation sessions, individuals will be invited to speak and share their experiences at smaller group sessions.

M. Nachwati will join Sub-committee II and the Chair will contact M. Dei-Amoah to ask her to consider joining Sub-committee II also.

W. Morrison/J. Rhodes

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

CARRIED.

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

Due to the fact that there is not a sufficient number of members to carry out the workload of Sub-committee III, the Committee suggested dissolving Sub-committee III and distribute its responsibilities to Sub-committees I and II.

Sub-committee III's Education and Training focus area will be assigned to Sub-committee I and the Public Awareness Raising focus area will be assigned to Sub-committee II.

Sub-committee I members include: J. Rhodes, T. Childs, W. Morrison, A. Hassan, B. Virk and R. Cameron.

Sub-committee II members include: J. Brennan, Z. Siddiqui, M. Nachwati, A. Kumar, N. Virgin and R. Cameron.

A. Kumar/J. Rhodes

That Sub-committee III will be dissolved and distribute its responsibilities to Sub-committees I and II.

CARRIED.

8. Follow up HPS 2011 Hate Crimes Report.

Tabled.

9. Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination - City of Hamilton membership - next steps.

M. Carter will develop a plan to share with the committee regarding what actions from the Charter align with what the City is doing and how the City will achieve the next steps required for the membership in the Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination. The plan will be shared with the Committee, for review and further input.

It was suggested that a sub-committee work on this action plan; T. Childs has volunteered to help M. Carter develop the plan.

10. New Business.

10.1. Report - J. Rhodes.

J. Rhodes shared a news article regarding Mr. Gideon McGuire Augier who has been accused of impersonating and providing, at cost, legal services, out of the Abba Uno Centre, in Hamilton, primarily targeting new immigrants and refugees. According to the article, Augier is not a lawyer and does not have legal training and the Ontario Supreme Court of Justice issued a permanent injunction against Augier to practice law and to provide legal services.

The Committee will refer the article to the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee since it is primarily new immigrants that are allegedly being targeted by this individual.

J. Rhodes/T. Childs

That the case of Gideon McGuire Augier be referred to the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee and that the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee provide a progress report to the Committee Against Racism, concerning any actions it has taken on this case.

CARRIED.

11. Information Sharing.

11.1 Griffin House.

T. Childs distributed brochures from the Griffin House and suggested that the Committee use the Griffin House brochure as an example to revise the CAR brochure. He also noted that he attended the Plaquing for the Little Africa event, which was held at the Concession Street Library, this evening.

11.2 Living Gandhi and King Today Event.

A. Kumar is selling tickets for this event at a table price of \$45 per person (10 people per table), instead of \$50 per person.

12. Next Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2013.

13. Adjournment.

A. Hassan/J. Rhodes

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

CARRIED.