



# Hamilton

## MINUTES

**Aboriginal Advisory Committee  
Thursday March 7, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Room 264**

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**Present:** Connie Bellamy, Marilyn Wright, David Bentley, Cindy-Sue Montana-McCormack

**Also Present:** Maxine Carter, Barb Smoke - City of Hamilton

**Regrets:** Debra Elmes, Allan Loft, Yvonne Maracle

**Absent:**

**Chairperson:** Marilyn Wright

**1. Opening.**

- The meeting opened at 5:50 p.m.

**2. Welcome and Introductions.**

- All were welcomed and M. Wright congratulated M. Carter on her Women of Distinction Nomination.

**3. Declaration of Interest.**

- None declared

**4. Review and Approval of Agenda.**

- The agenda was reviewed
- Addition of item 9a, Ontario Coalition of Aboriginal People, OCAP

**MOTION #1**

**C. Bellamy/D. Bentley**

That the agenda be accepted, as amended.

**CARRIED.**

**5. Presentation:**

- No presentations scheduled for this meeting.

**6. Approval of Minutes.**

**(a) February 7, 2013.**

- Review of minutes
- Page 3, motion #4, change "C. Bentley", to "D. Bentley"

**MOTION #2****C. Montana-McCormack/C. Bellamy**

To accept the minutes of the February 7, 2013 meeting, as amended.

**CARRIED.**

**(b) Business Arising from the Minutes.**

- Item 10.2, Committee members would like to have an update regarding the Valentine's Social and will request that D. Elmes give an update at that time
- Item 11a, there are also Mohawk Language classes at the HRIC
- M. Wright has a tape on the Thanksgiving address

**7. Terms of Reference Workshop Update.****Final document.**

- A report and the draft Terms of Reference will appear on the Audit, Finance and Administration agenda for approval and then to Council. M. Carter will send the committee notification of the dates, should they wish to attend

**8. Work Plan Discussion.**

- Brainstorming session at the next meeting regarding National Aboriginal Month
- The Committee would like to see an Aboriginal week/month declaration at a Council meeting in June
- This could be done by the Aboriginal Advisory Committee in collaboration with other Aboriginal agencies
- The banner across Main St., in front of city hall, to be discussed. HRIC to request the banner for a week in June, then the Aboriginal Advisory Committee can request the following week
- M. Carter to make the request on behalf of the Committee that Clerks schedule an Aboriginal spiritual openings for the Council meeting in June
- Agenda items to include: Aboriginal spiritual opening, honour song, certificates to recognize agencies, drumming and a ceremony could also be held at that time
- The Chair recommended that the committee acquire an eagle feather for all meetings and events
- The Chair will draft a letter to the Mayor's office, respectfully requesting the opportunity to appear at a June Council meeting. Draft letter will be sent to everyone, for their input next week
- Committee members will work on the development of a work plan for the last 2 years of the their term
- The committee will use the feedback that was collected by the committee members from the attendees at last year's NAD at Gage Park.

- Discussion took place regarding the upcoming presentation (April 2013 meeting) by Jenny Dupuis from the HWDSB. The Committee will put aside 30 minutes for the presentation
- Questions to ask:
- “How does the Aboriginal community know about the Aboriginal programs at the HWDSB?”
- “Can you give us an overview of the marketing program that is currently in place to make the community aware of your program?”
- The Committee is concerned about the closing of Parkview School in an area where there are high numbers of Aboriginal families
- “What kinds of policies and procedures are in place regarding the program?”
- Jenny Dupuis will attend the April 4 meeting, along with Gail Belisario, to discuss her current responsibilities with the HWDSB
- The Committee would like to see more presentations from organizations in the community – they will discuss this at the April meeting

## 9. **New Business.**

### (a) **Ontario Coalition of Aboriginal People, OCAP.**

- OCAP is an advocacy organization in Ontario, that represents the rights and interests of off-reserve Aboriginal peoples (Métis, Status and non-Status Indians) living in urban, rural and remote areas, throughout the province
- John Roberts is the Southern Ontario Liaison and the Director of Education and D. Bentley is the President
- The organization has an internet site for further information regarding their mandate, constitution, bylaws and any other information, on [www.o-cap.ca](http://www.o-cap.ca)
- OCAP is an affiliate member of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP)
- There are 8,000 members, province-wide
- David Bentley will bring more information to the next meeting.

## 10. **Information Sharing.**

- (a) March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- (b) March 21 – Hamilton Police Services – Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Reflection “Towards Eradicating Racism”, 7-9 pm
- (c) March 8 – International Women’s Day event, at 75 MacNab St. S.
- (d) YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program; information attached.
- (e) Protecting Mother Earth Youth & Elders’ Gathering, May 24 & 25.
- (f) Newspaper article regarding Hagersville High School’s Lacrosse credit program.

**11. Next Meeting.**

- Next meeting scheduled for April 4, 2013

**12. Adjournment.**

**MOTION #3**

**D. Bentley/C. Montana-McCormack**

That the meeting be adjourned, at 7:03 p.m.

**CARRIED.**