



Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

May 4, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Lynn Collins, Chair
Eva Guta
Jamil Qamar, Vice-Chair
Vanessa Reid
Angela Thomas
Anjali Thorve

Regrets: Robin Steed

Also Present: Councillor Shahid, Mayor's Designate
Shelby Moffat, Whitby Public Library Representative
Kim Evans, Staff Liaison, Supervisor, 55+ Recreation Services
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)

1. Call to Order
2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by Vanessa Reid

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of April 6, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Rizwan Mohammad, Advocacy Officer, National Council of Canadian Muslims

Re: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Municipal Recommendations to Address Islamophobia

Rizwan Mohammad provided a presentation regarding the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Municipal Recommendations to Address Islamophobia. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the history that led to the municipal recommendations;
- recommendations for municipalities that aim to address Islamophobia and support Canadian Muslims;
- actions taken by other municipalities; and,
- partnership opportunities and support for Canadian Muslims.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- the success of harassment by-laws that grant ticketing authority in other municipalities;
- who would be responsible for issuing tickets;
- methods for reporting harassment; and,
- planned activities to celebrate Islamic Heritage Month in October.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 An Evening with Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists Recap

Kim Evans advised that the Evening with Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists event was very successful.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- attendance at the event and the ability to host future events at a different location within the Whitby Public Library in order to accommodate more attendees;
- hosting the event annually; and,

- including poets and artists from other cultural backgrounds in a future event.

6.2 2023 Approved Items for Committee Support

Kim Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding the 2023 approved items for committee support and incorporating them into the Work Plan.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether new members of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce could be invited to participate in the Newcomer Bus Tour.

6.3 Work Plan Development

Lynn Collins requested that the Committee review the draft Work Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- establishing an annual Evening with Poets and Spoken Word Artists event;
- receiving a presentation by the Congress of Black Women of Canada Oshawa/Whitby Chapter at an upcoming meeting;
- connecting with Durham College to request presentations from Indigenous groups at upcoming meetings; and,
- requesting a presentation from the Region regarding community demographics.

7. Council Update

Councillor Shahid provided an update regarding:

- the Good Roads Annual Conference;
- launch of the Town's Explore Whitby website and Instagram account for tourism, events and culture;
- the Town's Community Strategic Plan;
- the Ending Homelessness Symposium hosted by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
- the Town's Public Art Policy Survey; and,
- the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Next Meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Anjali Thorve

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee on June 1, 2023.