

Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes
June 4, 2020 – 7:15 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Mayline Brown
Cheryl Frayne
Brianna Nelson
Catherine Philogene, Vice-Chair
Ayse Yuksel

Also Present: Councillor Shahid, Mayor's Designate
Mallory Dawson, Whitby Public Library Representative
Kim Evans, Staff Liaison, Supervisor, 55+ Recreation Services
Sharon Meredith, Senior Manager, Recreation
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Andrea Cecchetto, Chair

Call to Order

Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator, advised that due to the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency, the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting is being held electronically. She provided Members of the Committee with an overview of meeting etiquette and procedures with respect to conducting the meeting electronically.

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - February 6, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Cheryl Frayne

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of February 6, 2020 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

- 3.1** Paul Dobbs, Manager, Technology and Community Development, John Howard Society of Durham Region
Re: John Howard Society of Durham Region Community Development

Paul Dobbs provided a presentation regarding the John Howard Society (JHS) of Durham Region Community Development programs. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the history of the John Howard Society of Durham Region;
- the services provided through the housing program;
- statistics on the number of people that utilize the Society's services every year; and,
- housing and reintegration challenges faced by incarcerated individuals.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether the JHS of Durham Region was connected with the Region of Durham Housing Program;
- whether the public could direct people to the JHS; and,
- location of the JHS Durham Region offices.

A brief discussion ensued regarding connecting with the Staff Liaison for the Whitby Youth Council Committee to establish a partnership with the JHS.

4. Delegations

- 4.1** There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

- 5.1** Upcoming Events

Movie Listing Suggestions

Kim Evans suggested that the Committee establish a list of recommended movies for the public that would address the themes of anti-black racism, Indigenous history, and pride.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the number of movies to include in each category; and,
- including a children's movies category.

Ms. Evans requested Members to email her their movie title suggestions for the listing.

Virtual Newcomer Bus Tour

Kim Evans suggested creating a virtual Newcomer Bus Tour as an alternative to the in-person Newcomer Bus Tour while social distancing measures were in place.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- establishing a Newcomer Bus Virtual Tour working group; and,
- working with youth and providing an honourarium to create the virtual tour.

Brooklin Harvest Festival

Kim Evans advised that the Brooklin Harvest Festival had been cancelled due to COVID-19.

5.2 School Staff Training Sponsorship Update

Cheryl Frayne advised that the School Staff Training Sponsorship was on hold due to COVID-19.

5.3 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Public Survey

Kim Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding the anti-black racism statement that was posted on the Town's social media channels.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the process for handling public comments received by the Committee;
- providing a public statement regarding the upcoming release of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Public Survey;
- tools for engaging with people through social media, such as 'Bang the Table';
- the process for handling suggestions related to how the Town could better support issues of access, equity, and inclusion;
- community services available for people feeling harassed, marginalized, or victimized;
- engaging the community to better understand issues surrounding inclusion, diversity, and anti-racism;
- hosting a webinar that focuses on how parents can talk to their children about recent world events and anti-black racism;

- providing a mechanism within the Town for the public to discuss and report issues and experiences of inequity, non-inclusion, and racism; and,
- setting up an email account to route public concerns and suggestions related to diversity, inclusion and anti-racism.

5.4 Public Seminar Update

There were no public seminar updates.

5.5 Future Speakers Update and Discussion

Kim Evans requested suggestions from the Committee regarding future guest speakers.

Discussion ensued regarding sending out a call-out to community groups to encourage diversity among speaker topics and speakers such as members of community organizations.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Shahid encouraged the Committee to provide a presentation to Council regarding community and public concerns related to issues of diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism.

Councillor Shahid advised that a march was being held in Ajax on June 5, 2020 to protest racism. Ms. Shahid further advised connecting with the Durham Regional Police Services Inclusion and Diversity Unit.

8. Other Business

8.1 There was no other business.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Thursday, September 3, 2020 - 7:15 p.m.
Committee Room One, Whitby Town Hall
575 Rossland Road East

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Cheryl Frayne

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee on September 3, 2020.