

Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Minutes
March 1, 2018 – 7:15 PM
Committee Room 2
Whitby Municipal Building

Present: Mayline Brown (arrived at 7:31 p.m.)
Aldith Carasquero, Chair
Punita Lumb
Barbara Perry
Sharmila Saigaonkar
Renee Sgroi, Vice-Chair

Also Present: Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate (arrived at 7:46 p.m. and left at 8:30 p.m.)
Rhonda Jessup, Whitby Public Library Representative, Public Services Manager
Sarah Klein, Staff Liaison, Manager of Recreation
Rebekah Noseworthy, Special Events Assistant
Laura MacDougall, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Cheryl Frayne
Jessie Huang

The meeting began at 7:26 p.m.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 3.1, Approval of Minutes, at this time.

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

1.1 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee was advised that the appointment for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee for the January 1 to November 30, 2018 term would take place at this time.

Sarah Klein called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Sharmila Saigaonkar nominated Aldith Carasquero for the position of Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Aldith Carasquero accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Sarah Klein called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Mayline Brown nominated Renee Sgroi for the position of Vice-Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Renee Sgroi accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved By Sharmila Saigaonkar

That Aldith Carasquero be appointed Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee for a term ending on November 30, 2018.

Carried

Recommendation:

Moved By Mayline Brown

That Renee Sgroi be appointed Vice-Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee for a term ending on November 30, 2018.

Carried

Aldith Carasquero assumed the Chair.

2. Disclosures of Interest

2.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - February 1, 2018

Recommendation:

Moved By Sharmila Saigaonkar

That the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee minutes of February 1, 2018 be approved.

Carried

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 4.1, Presentation by Sheila Bowness, at this time.

4. Presentations/Deputations

4.1 Sheila Bowness

Re: Colours and Cultures of Brooklin Event

Sheila Bowness appeared before the Committee and provided background information as well as a detailed overview of the Colours and Cultures of Brooklin event that took place in 2017. She distributed a pamphlet detailing the 2018 event, and advised that it was scheduled to take place on April 28, 2018 at Grass Park from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She commented on the success of the 2017 event and advised that the organizers were hoping for more diversity in the area of entertainment for the 2018 event. She further advised that funds raised during the 2017 event had been donated to the Brooklin High School Diversity Club. Ms. Bowness invited the Committee to attend on April 28, and requested assistance in promoting the event and suggestions for local vendors, artisans or street performers.

A question and answer period ensued between the Members of the Committee and Ms. Bowness regarding:

- managing insurance and permitting requirements for vendors;
- soliciting performers and providing a list of performers that have been used by the Town, including youth entertainment;
- including food trucks that would offer diverse food choices;
- options for promoting the event; and,
- providing musical instruments and balloons, similar to the 2017 contribution.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 1.1, Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair, at this time.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 2018 Work Plan

Sarah Klein advised that Council approved the Work Plan at its meeting held on January 29, 2018. She advised that the Committee needed to work on event-related items contained within the Work Plan.

Rebekah Noseworthy advised that there are opportunities to collaborate with various groups across Whitby to bring a diverse mix of events to Celebration Square. She highlighted four events at Celebration Square and provided a summary of ideas which included involving the Downtown Whitby Business Improvement Area, the Station Gallery, the indigenous community and the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Committee. Ms. Noseworthy advised that she would approach and confirm the participation of the groups.

Sarah Klein advised that she had met with staff from Human Resources pertaining to hosting an information and training session with Council and the Committee Members as well as providing diversity training for Town of Whitby employees and that more information was required to assist in organizing these events.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of the Committee and Staff regarding:

- the objectives, topic(s) and costs associated with different options for the information and training sessions for Council and staff;
- whether training for Town employees should begin with the Senior Leadership Team or front line staff;
- providing a professional trainer or purchasing a training module; and,
- the goal of the training sessions and what they might achieve in terms of diversity training for the Town.

Further discussion about the event-related items ensued regarding:

- the Committee's participation with interactive activities at community and school cultural and diversity events such as Colours and Cultures of Brooklin (April 28, 2018) and the How-To in 10 Festival (May 12, 2018);
- hosting the citizenship ceremony event on Canada Day at the Centennial Building at 11:00 a.m.;
- cultural events and programs as part of the Culture in the Square series (July 10 and August 14, 2018) and at local schools in the spring or fall of 2018;
- reaching out to newcomers at the White Oaks apartment buildings and Henry Street High School to gather feedback on how EDAC can assist to meet their needs and make connections in the community;
- meeting with the Seniors' Services Committee of Council on May 11 to discuss collaborative opportunities;
- hosting a newcomer bus tour for new residents; and,
- hosting two programs on diversity topics to include mental health and a diversity forum/program.

Recommendation:

Moved By Punita Lumb

That Item 1.2 of the Work Plan regarding hosting an information and training session with Council and the Committee Members be referred to Q1 of 2019.

Carried

5.2 Upcoming Events

The Committee discussed the Colours and Cultures of Brooklin Event, How-to in 10 and the Canada Day event under Item 5.1.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada left earlier in the meeting. Therefore, there was no Council update.

8. Other Business

8.1 Council Moment of Reflection

Sarah Klein advised that following the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Committee's meeting held on February 1, 2018, a meeting took place with Mayor Mitchell to consider the proposed change to the opening statement read aloud at each Regular Council Meeting. Aldith Carasquero stated that the Mayor amended the Moment of Reflection to include diversity. She advised that the second sentence of the opening statement read aloud by the Mayor at each Regular Meeting was amended by including the words 'in our diverse community' following the word 'good'. The last sentence was amended by replacing the word 'community' with 'Town'.

Recommendation:

Moved By Mayline Brown

That the opening statement read aloud by the Mayor at each Regular Meeting, as amended, be approved.

Carried

9. Next Meeting

9.1 April 5, 2018 - 7:15 p.m.
Committee Room One
Whitby Municipal Building

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Sharmila Saigaonkar

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

L. MacDougall, Council and Committee
Coordinator

Aldith Carasquero, Committee Chair