

Present: Mayline Brown
Andrea Cecchetto
Brianna Nelson
Catherine Philogene
Vivek Singh
Ayse Yuksel

Also Present: Councillor Shahid, Mayor's Designate
Sarah Hickman, Durham Region Representative, Policy Advisor,
Diversity & Immigration Program
Kim Evans, Staff Liaison, Supervisor, Seniors Services
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Cheryl Frayne

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 1.1** The Committee was advised that the appointment for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee for the January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 term would take place at this time.

Kim Evans called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Ayse Yuksel nominated Mayline Brown for the position of Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Mayline Brown accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

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

Vivek Singh nominated Andrea Cecchetto for the position of Vice-Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Andrea Cecchetto accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved By Ayse Yuksel

That Mayline Brown be appointed Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2019.

Carried

Recommendation:

Moved By Vivek Singh

That Andrea Cecchetto be appointed Vice-Chair of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2019.

Carried

Mayline Brown assumed the Chair.

2. Disclosures of Interest

2.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - March 7, 2019

Recommendation:

Moved By Andrea Cecchetto

That the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee minutes of March 7, 2019 be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Kim Evans, Staff Liaison, Supervisor of Seniors Services
Re: 2019 Town of Whitby Events

Kim Evans provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding various Town of Whitby Events that the Committee could participate in including Family Day, Doors Open, Canada Day, Whitby in Bloom, Harvest Festival, Open Streets, Christmas in the Village and the Whitby Tree Lighting. She further advised that the summer programming events including Fresh Air in the Square, Culture in the Square, Movies in the Park and Music in the Park would provide additional opportunities to participate in events.

Councillor Shahid requested a Bollywood movie for Movies in the Park.

Kim Evans confirmed that the Committee would organize two activities for Culture in the Square including:

- Cultural Dance Lessons on Tuesday, July 16, 2019; and,
- Indigenous Traditions on Tuesday, August 13, 2019.

Kim Evans advised of an opportunity for the Committee to liaise with the Town's Special Events Team regarding the Showcase of Cultures shows taking place at the Canada Day event. She further advised that the Showcase of Cultures venue would celebrate visual arts, performing arts, culinary and other activities that represent Whitby's cultural community and that there would be three shows.

5. Delegations

5.1 There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 2019 Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Work Plan

Kim Evans provided a draft of the work plan and advised that the Committee would develop a four-year plan. Discussion ensued regarding the projects that the Committee would support and their associated activities, including:

- Mayor and Council engagement:
 - creating a multicultural calendar in the fall of 2019 (for 2020);
 - submitting a proclamation each month to recognize days that highlight inclusion and/or cultural awareness; and,
 - hosting a diversity information session for Members of Council.
- Community engagement and partnerships:

- participating in Town events and other local and regional diversity activities. (e.g., How-to in 10).
- Involving diverse groups:
 - inviting various cultural and diversity community groups to provide presentations at Committee meetings.
- Providing input to Staff:
 - during the development of policies to promote awareness of ethno-cultural relations and diversity matters; and,
 - providing diversity training for Town of Whitby employees.
- Engaging the public:
 - conducting a survey to evaluate Whitby's needs regarding inclusion, ethno-cultural and diversity issues. The survey would be developed in Q4 of 2019 and conducted in 2020;
 - hosting community workshops such as a movies, plays and speaker series; and,
 - supporting School Cultural programs through HOZA (Leaders in Learning).
- Reviewing, researching and recommending best practices by:
 - reviewing current research on diversity and inclusion issues; and,
 - providing recommendations on matters of diversity and inclusion within the Town of Whitby.

Recommendation:

Moved By Mayline Brown

That the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee approve the 2019-2022 Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Work Plan.

Carried

6.2 Upcoming Events

How-to in 10 - April 13, 2019

Catherine Philogene advised that the preparations for the event were underway and that the 2016 Census was used to determine which country's currencies would be included in the event.

Kim Evans advised that a world map would be available for attendees to identify their family's country of origin with a pin.

Ayse Yuksel advised that she would volunteer for this event.

Youth Pride Day - June 8, 2019

Kim Evans advised that a proclamation request to proclaim the 8th of June as Youth Pride Day would be submitted to the Town to acknowledge Whitby's commitment to supporting diversity within the youth community. She further advised that an event would be held at the Durham District School Board in partnership with the Children's Aid Society, Durham Regional Police, and the Region of Durham. The Committee agreed to set up a table for this event.

Brianna Nelson volunteered to participate in this event.

Canada Day - July 1, 2019

Kim Evans advised that the Canada Day Citizenship Ceremony would take place at the Centennial Building. She further advised she was waiting for confirmation from the Federal Government to proceed with the event.

Mayline Brown, Andrea Cecchetto and Catherine Philogene volunteered to participate in the Citizenship Ceremony upon confirmation of the event.

Kim Evans requested input from the Committee regarding activities to include at the Canada Day Showcase of Cultures shows. She advised that the shows would take place at 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. along the Waterfront Trail. She noted that activities should represent the cultural community of Whitby.

Discussion ensued regarding inviting performers from the Region of Durham's Black History Month event, the Tamil performers that recently performed at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate and Indigenous groups.

Kim Evans advised that volunteers were required for three two-hour shifts for this event.

Culture in the Square - Cultural Dances - July 16, 2019

Councillor Shahid provided contact information for a local belly dancer to perform at this event. Sarah Hickman advised that she would provide follow-up information regarding the dancers who performed at the Region's Black History Month event.

Culture in the Square - Indigenous Traditions - August 13, 2019

Councillor Shahid provided information regarding the Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle who held a 'Big Drum Social' at Camp Samac.

Harvest Festival

Kim Evans requested that the Committee provide input and ideas regarding activities for this event at a later date.

6.3 Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Survey

Kim Evans advised that a diversity and inclusion survey would be developed in the fall of 2019 and implemented in 2020.

6.4 Committee Name Change

Kim Evans advised that Members have expressed concern that the current committee name was deceiving and did not fully reflect the mandate of the Committee. It was the consensus of the Committee to consider changing the name to incorporate 'inclusion'.

7. Correspondence

7.1 There was no correspondence.

8. Council Update

8.1 Councillor Shahid advised that several residents had requested information regarding basic family rights. She suggested that the Committee host a discussion panel comprised of a family lawyer, a police officer and any other professionals that could address domestic violence and spousal rights regarding family property.

9. Other Business

9.1 National Volunteer Week - April 8 to 12, 2019

Kim Evans advised that next week would be National Volunteer Week and thanked the Committee for their involvement and contributions to the Town of Whitby and its citizens.

10. Next Meeting

10.1 May 2, 2019 - 7:15 p.m.
Boardroom, Whitby Seniors' Centre
801 Brock Street South

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Catherine Philogene

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

H. Oerlemans, Council and Committee
Coordinator

M. Brown, Committee Chair