



Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

April 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Whitby Public Library
Central Branch, Board Room
405 Dundas Street West

Present: Eva Guta
Jamil Qamar, Vice-Chair
Vanessa Reid
Robin Steed
Angela Thomas

Regrets: Lynn Collins, Chair
Anjali Thorve

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)

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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 Eva Guta

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of February 2, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. General Business and Reports

4.1 2023 Dates of Significance

Kim Evans advised that the 2023 Dates of Significance were approved by Council and were posted on the Town's webpage:

www.whitby.ca/diversity. Ms. Evans stated that Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) requested the following dates for flag raisings:

- March 31, 2023, Trans Day of Visibility;
- May 17, 2023, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia;
- June 2023, Pride Month; and,
- November 20, 2023, Trans Day of Remembrance.

4.2 Region of Durham Pride Day

Kim Evans requested that the Committee support the Region of Durham Pride Day.

4.3 Joint Accessibility Advisory and Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committees Meeting - Review of Initiatives

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Events

Kim Evans advised that promoting events through Facebook has been successful. Ms. Evans stated that the Black Poetry Night Event was fully booked.

Fall Workshop: Neurodiversity

Kim Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding hosting a Neurodiversity Workshop with the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Ms. Evans stated that Autistics United Canada offered the following workshops:

- All Brains are Beautiful: A Look at Neurodiversity and Autism;
- Autistics Intersections; and,
- An Introduction to Disability Justice.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- where the workshop would be held; and,

- whether the Abilities Centre offered workshops and could provide a list of their past speakers.

Town Events

Kim Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding suitable Town Events for the Committee to attend to distribute pamphlets and swag. Ms. Evans provided a list of events which included:

- Canada Day on Saturday, July 1, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.;
- Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and,
- National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21, 2023) event on June 17, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

4.4 Drag Queen Story Time

Kim Evans advised that Youth Pride Durham requested that the Committee sponsor the Drag Queen Story Time event on June 10, 2023. Ms. Evans requested that Members review requests for participation or sponsorship of community events.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- sponsoring Drag Queen Story Time;
- sponsoring youth performer fees for Youth Pride Day on Saturday June 17, 2023;
- promoting an Indigenous Beading Workshop at the Whitby Public Library and providing financial support to the artists;
- sponsoring the New Resident Bus Tour;
- ordering a new Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee roll-up banner for events; and,
- future considerations for events including Emancipation Day at the Region of Durham, a fall New Resident Bus Tour, and Neurodiversity Workshop in partnership with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Recommendation:

Moved by Angela Thomas

1. That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee supports sponsorship for a Drag Queen Story Time, Youth Pride Day, Indigenous Beading Workshop, New Resident Bus Tour, and a Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Roll-up Banner; and,
2. That the Emancipation Day at Region of Durham, a fall New Resident Bus Tour, and a workshop in partnership with the Accessibility Advisory Committee be considered for future sponsorship.

Carried

4.5 Work Plan Preparation

Kim Evans requested that the Committee consider items for the 2022-2026 term Work Plan.

5. Council Update

Councillor Shahid provided an update regarding:

- feedback received following the 2022 Drag Queen Storytime Event such as a request for security and messaging provided by Corporate Communications to assist event volunteers in responding to questions or inappropriate comments;
- the 2023 Budget;
- Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act;
- Envision Durham;
- a West Ward Town Hall Event on March 14, 2023;
- the Public Art Survey on Connect Whitby;
- the Youth in Policing 7th Annual Conference on March 28, 2023;
- a motion urging the Province to require a Safe-Arrival Policy for provincially licensed child care providers; and,
- Ready Set Future, Durham Region's Five-Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan.

6. Other Business

6.1 2023 Roebuck Placemaking Street Closure Artist Jury Panel

Kim Evans advised that Creative Communities was requesting volunteers from advisory committees to serve on the 2023 Roebuck Placemaking Street Closure Artist Jury Panel.

7. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee on May 4, 2023.