

Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Minutes
June 7, 2018 - 7:15 PM
Committee Room One
Whitby Municipal Building

Present: Mayline Brown
Cheryl Frayne
Jessie Huang
Punita Lumb
Sharmila Saigaonkar (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

Also Present: Samantha Burdett, Policy Advisor Diversity and Immigration,
Regional Municipality of Durham
Arfah Christy, Whitby Youth Council Representative (left at 8:15
p.m.)
Rhonda Jessup, Whitby Public Library Representative, Public
Services Manager (left at 8:50 p.m.)
Sarah Klein, Staff Liaison, Manager of Recreation
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Aldith Carasquero, Chair
Barbara Perry
Renee Sgroi, Vice-Chair

The meeting began at 7:27 p.m.

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - April 5, 2018

Recommendation:

Moved By Punita Lumb

That the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Minutes of
April 5, 2018 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations/Deputations

3.1 All Saints C.S.S. Social Change Makers
Re: The Next Movement

Students from the All Saints C.S.S. Social Change Makers group appeared before the Committee to provide an overview of initiatives of The Next Movement program including:

- the goal to increase awareness of minority issues on the school website;
- a report function on the school website to allow visitors to leave anonymous comments, experiences, or concerns;
- bringing awareness to and addressing issues facing indigenous students;
- celebrating multiculturalism through education;
- spreading awareness of micro-aggressions within and outside of the school community; and
- involvement in multicultural town events.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding:

- recruitment, training, and involvement in the Social Change Makers student group;
- partnership opportunities with the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee (EDAC); and
- EDAC's ability to subsidize course fees, training, or workshops for students such as training through the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion.

Sarah Klein advised that she would follow up with the Vice Principal of All Saints C.S.S in October, once the group's mandate had been solidified.

4. General Business and Reports

4.1 2018 Working Plan Updates

The Committee discussed the 2018 Working Plan Updates including:

- training through the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion for Town Senior Management regarding investment in diversity and diversity dividends;
- increasing diversity awareness through an interactive-type presentation for Black History Month in 2019 at local high schools;
- participating in a cultural event at the Seniors Centre for the Open Streets Whitby event on September 29, 2018; and

- presenting a film in conjunction with the Seniors Centre on mental health.

4.2 Events Review

Sarah Klein provided an update regarding the success of various events hosted by the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Seniors Presentation

Sarah Klein advised that the May 11, 2018 Seniors Presentation detailing the efforts and activities of the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee was well received and that the Whitby Seniors' Services Committee would be interested in working with the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee at the two Diversity Forums in the Fall of 2018.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the "#metoo" movement and mental health;
- cultural perceptions of mental health;
- the best method for engaging the public in a workshop/talk/presentation; and
- presenting a short film or documentary followed by a facilitative discussion.

How-to in 10

Sarah Klein advised the Committee that the How-to in 10 event received a positive turn out and generated interest in involvement with the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

Henry Street Hub Presentation

Sarah Klein provided an update regarding feedback received from the Henry Street Hub presentation that was held on May 14, 2018 and advised that there was a need for better communication methods to increase awareness of programs and services that exist within the community for newcomer youth.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- settlement workers in schools who would be able to provide an introduction to school systems such as fire drills, lock-down procedures, school tour, transitioning between classrooms, and lockers for newcomer youth;
- community newcomer student tours to public facilities such as the Civic Centre and other activity centres; and
- sponsoring youth awareness training experts.

4.3 Upcoming Events (May to December)

- Canada Day - July 1, 2018
- Culture in the Square - July 10 & August 14, 2018
- Newcomer Bus Tour - September 22, 2018
- Diversity Forum: Seniors - September 29, 2018
- Diversity Forum: Mental Health - November 21, 2018

Sarah Klein reviewed the list of upcoming events for 2018 and provided an update regarding which events Committee Members had volunteered to attend.

5. Correspondence

5.1 There was no correspondence.

6. Council Update

6.1 Councillor Yamada was not in attendance, therefore there was no Council update.

7. Other Business

7.1 World Religion Day - January 20, 2019

Sarah Klein provided an overview of the World Religion Day event that would be held on January 20, 2019 and advised that the organizers would like to hold the event in a public space, such as a mall.

8. Adjournment

8.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Cheryl Frayne

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

H. Oerlemans, Council/Committee
Coordinator

Aldith Carasquero, Committee Chair