



Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

February 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Lynn Collins, Chair
Eva Guta
Robin Steed
Angela Thomas

Regrets: Jamil Qamar, Vice-Chair
Vanessa Reid
Anjali Thorve

Also Present: Kim Evans, Manager, 55+ Recreation, Accessibility & Diversity
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)
Shelby Moffat, Whitby Public Library Representative

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 January 4, 2024 be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Sarah Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Town of Whitby

Re: Update on Homelessness in Whitby

Sarah Klein provided an update on Homelessness in Whitby which included:

- a summary of supports and services available in Durham Region for persons experiencing homelessness;
- the role of outreach workers and the services they provide;
- accessing food bank locations and hygiene products;
- information about encampments, low income supports, housing supports, shelters, and warming centres; and,
- resources for businesses such as safety tips, reporting crime, and naloxone kits.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether service providers for the 1635 Dundas Shelter have been selected;
- changes in the demographics of unsheltered persons; and,
- whether a priority-based criteria would be established to determine which individuals would be admitted into the 1635 Dundas Shelter.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 2024 Work Plan Review

Kim Evans provided a summary of the Committee's 2024 Work Plan which included attending events, connecting with diverse community groups, and providing input to Staff on policies and public engagement strategies.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- contacting Durham Regional Police Service for more information and resources about crisis response;
- the 'Changing the Face of Homelessness' event hosted by the Whitby Public Library; and,

- a future panel event on 'Changing the Face of Newcomers' at the Whitby Public Library.

6.2 March Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Agenda Discussion

Kim Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding topics for the March Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- providing input about the Leading Equitable and Accessibility Delivery program;
- including translation and accessibility widgets on the Town's registration webpages for community programs;
- providing input about hosting a joint event and booking the performer from the Joint Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting; and,
- including an inclusion statement when promoting upcoming events.

6.3 2024 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Events

Kim Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding event volunteers and sponsorships.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- 'An Evening with Local Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists' on April 4, 2024;
- supporting the Durham Pride Prom event in 2025 through volunteering, donating prizes, or offering a monetary donation; and,
- providing financial sponsorship for the New Resident Bus Tour in September 2024.

Recommendation:

Moved by Angela Thomas

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee provide financial sponsorship of \$1500.00 from the Committee's budget for the New Resident Bus Tour in September 2024.

Carried

6.4 2024 Guest Presentations

Kim Evans stated that she would contact the Community Development Council of Durham, Bridges Out of Poverty, GAP Committee, Durham Regional Police Services, and Victim Services groups about providing a presentation to the Committee.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Leading Equitable and Accessible Delivery Program

Kim Evans stated that correspondence was received regarding the status of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's request for Staff to participate in the Leading Equitable and Accessible Delivery program. Ms. Evans stated that the request was referred to Staff to report back on the opportunity to participate in this program given corporate resource constraints and commitments.

8. Council Update

There was no Council update.

9. Other Business

9.1 Culinary Options at Events

Lynn Collins stated that she attended the Emancipation Day event hosted by the Town of Ajax. Ms. Collins advised that there was only one food vendor at the event. She recommended that alternative options be provided at events to promote diversity.

9.2 Accessibility and Public Change Rooms

Lynn Collins stated that the changing area in the women's public change room at the Whitby Civic Recreation Centre was too constricting for individuals with physical disabilities. Ms. Collins advised that there was an accessible room at the back of the change room, but the signage identified it as a 'Baby Change Room'. She recommended that the signage be more inclusive.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Kim Evans stated that An Evening with Local Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists event conflicted with the April 4, 2024 Committee meeting. Ms. Evans recommended that the Committee alter the meeting time and location to the Whitby Public Library at 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., so that Members may attend the event.

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That the April 4, 2024 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting take place in the Boardroom at the Whitby Public Library from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., to allow Members to attend An Evening with Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists event.

Carried

11. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee on May 2, 2024.