

Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes
February 6, 2020 – 7:15 PM
Committee Room One
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Mayline Brown (arrived at 7:18 p.m.)
Cheryl Frayne
Brianna Nelson
Catherine Philogene, Vice-Chair
Ayse Yuksel

Also Present: Councillor Shahid, Mayor's Designate
Mallory Dawson, Whitby Public Library Representative
Kim Evans, Staff Liaison, Supervisor, Seniors Services
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Andrea Cecchetto, Chair

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - January 9, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Ayse Yuksel

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of January 9, 2020 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Liza Serra, Volunteer, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
(PFLAG)

Re: Building Awareness, Support, Education and Resources on Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expressions

Liza Serra provided information regarding Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG). Highlights of the presentation included:

- PFLAG's mission to provide support, education and resources on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression;
- programs such as peer to peer support teams, Camp Rainbow Phoenix, Durham Pride Prom, Coffee/Sharing Nights, Remember Orlando June 12th, and an Evening of Hope;
- fundraising activities such as the Annual Gala, camp sponsorships, and food drives; and,
- community partners such as the Canadian Mental Health Association Durham, PRIDE Durham, Oshawa Community Health Centre, Durham Rape Crisis Centre, Durham Queer Parenting, and Club 717.

Ms. Serra advised that Camp Rainbow Phoenix was PFLAG's largest event and that the Camp was financed through the fundraising activities of PFLAG. She stated that the Camp provided youth with an opportunity to learn strategies for dealing with anxiety, and various life skills such as cooking and budgeting.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Upcoming Events

How-to-in 10 Event

Mallory Dawson advised that the Library was not hosting a How-to-in 10 event this year. Ms. Dawson further advised that the Library would be hosting a Digital Literacy Day event in lieu of the How-to-in 10 event.

Open Streets Event

Kim Evans advised that this event would be held in May and that she would provide more details at a later date.

Youth Pride Day

Kim Evans advised that she had not received a request to attend Youth Pride Day at this time and that the event would take place in June.

Canada Day Citizenship Ceremony

Kim Evans advised that she would book the Regal Room at the Centennial Building and recommended inviting the County Town Choir to sing at the event.

Canada Day Booth

Kim Evans requested that the Committee provide feedback regarding participating in this event.

Movie Event

Kim Evans advised that she would book the Courthouse Theatre if the Committee decided to host a Movie Event.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- determining the target audience for the event;
- licensing fees associated with hosting a movie event; and,
- selecting the date and time for the event.

Mallory Dawson advised that she would investigate using Canopy, the Library's movie streaming service, for the movie event.

Brooklin Harvest Festival

Kim Evans advised that this event would be held in September.

Culture in the Square Events

Kim Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding topics for two Culture in the Square events.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- including an 'Indigenous Story Talk' as an event;
- 'Foods from Different Countries' as an event; and,
- ways to include local businesses in the 'Foods from Different Countries' event.

5.2 School Staff Training Sponsorship

Cheryl Frayne advised that she had received confirmation for a staff lunch and learn at St. Bridget Catholic School for March 24, 2020.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the focus of the lunch and learn on Indigenous learning;
- the presenters for the lunch and learn;
- the role of the Committee such as funding and participation; and,

- the format of the lunch and learn.

5.3 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Public Survey

Kim Evans advised that the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Public Survey would be reviewed for approval. Ms. Evans further advised that she would provide a timeline for the survey to be released to the public after she had discussed the matter with the Corporate Communications Division.

5.4 Public Seminar: Human Trafficking

Councillor Shahid advised that she had a contact list of speakers for a Human Trafficking Seminar. Councillor Shahid further advised that the Committee should host an event on the topic of human trafficking.

Mallory Dawson advised that arrangements could be made to host an event at the Whitby Public Library Main Branch or the Brooklin Community Centre and Library.

Discussion ensued regarding the best time of year to host an event on human trafficking.

5.5 Newcomer Inclusion Program

Kim Evans advised that the Newcomer Bus Tour would take place in September and that the Committee would review the route and script for the tour at the March 5, 2020 meeting.

Councillor Shahid requested that the Committee consider hosting a Diversity and Inclusion Symposium similar to the event hosted by the Town of Ajax. Councillor Shahid recommended that the Committee request funds from the Town to include this project in the 2021 budget.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether a symposium would be considered a Town event or a Committee event;
- what the role of the Committee would be, for example, participating, funding, and/or organizing the symposium;
- how the event would be formatted (speaker series, round-table dialogue); and,
- who the target audience would be.

Discussion ensued regarding the stages that were necessary prior to hosting a symposium including:

- completing and analyzing the data collected from the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Public Survey as a first year project;
- hosting round-table discussions based on key focus items highlighted from the Public Survey results as a second year project; and,
- hosting a Durham Region wide symposium based on key focus items highlighted from the round-table discussions as a final project.

5.6 Committee Merchandise

Kim Evans advised that she was investigating ordering Committee Merchandise such as a Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (WDIAC) branded tent and other committee swag for WDIAC booths at various Town events.

5.7 Proclamations: April 2020 to December 2020

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the impact of the proclamations to Whitby residents;
- linking or attaching proclamations to events; and,
- advertising proclamations to increase public awareness.

5.8 Future Speakers

Catherine Philogene advised that Paul Dobbs from the John Howard Society would be attending the May 7, 2020 meeting. Ms. Philogene further advised that the presentation would focus on the difficulties experienced by incarcerated individuals in finding housing.

Kim Evans advised that the YMCA requested attending the March 5, 2020 Committee meeting.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Shahid advised that the Budget Public Meeting was scheduled for February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and recommended that residents attend the meeting.

8. Other Business

8.1 Upcoming Holocaust Memorial Service

Cheryl Frayne advised that a Holocaust Memorial Service would be held at the Beth Zion Synagogue on April 19, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Thursday, March 5, 2020 - 7:15 p.m.
Boardroom, Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre
801 Brock Street South

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Ayse Yuksel

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee on June 4, 2020.