



## Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

January 2, 2025, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

Present: Lynn Collins, Chair  
Vanessa Drekmann, Vice-Chair  
Eva Guta  
Robin Steed  
Anjali Thorve

Regrets: Angela Thomas  
Jamil Qamar

Also Present: Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate  
Erica Mittag, Staff Liaison, Manager, 55+ Recreation,  
Accessibility and Diversity  
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording  
Secretary)

---

1. Call to Order
2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee was advised that the appointment for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for the January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 term would take place at this time.

Heather Ellis called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Robin Steed nominated Lynn Collins for the position of Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Lynn Collins accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Heather Ellis called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Robin Steed nominated Vanessa Drekmann for the position of Vice-Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Vanessa Drekmann accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That Lynn Collins be appointed Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2025.

**Carried**

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That Vanessa Drekmann be appointed Vice-Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2025.

**Carried**

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of December 5, 2024 be approved.

**Carried**

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Activities 2025

Erica Mittag provided an overview of proposed activities for the Committee's participation in 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- attending the Region of Durham's Black History Month event;
- preparing a handout with a QR code that links to the Committee's online cookbook project recipe submission form;
- providing funding for the Region of Durham's Black History Month event and the International Women's Day event; and,
- the Committee's attendance at a 2025 Remembrance Day Ceremony, including laying of a wreath at one of the three Whitby cenotaphs.

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That \$800 be drawn from the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's 2025 annual budget to fund two events hosted by the Region of Durham, namely, the Black History Month event in the amount of \$500, and the International Women's Day event in the amount of \$300.

**Carried**

## 6.2 Proposed Committee Cookbook Project Update

Erica Mittag provided an overview of the proposed Committee Cookbook Project.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- developing an online form for collecting recipes and stories from members of the community;
- using Connect Whitby to support the cookbook project;
- establishing a standardized list of questions for collecting personal stories;
- summarizing the purpose of the cookbook;
- providing examples of personal stories to be included in the cookbook within the online form to help guide respondents; and,

- community engagement activities to promote the cookbook project.

### 6.3 2025 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Erica Mittag reviewed the 2025 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule with the Committee. Ms. Mittag provided information regarding potential 2025 guest speakers.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the proposed February and April guest speakers; and,
- preparing a list of the Committee's questions and requested information for the Town's Communications and Creative Services Division prior to their presentation to the Committee.

## 7. Council Update

Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:

- the Menorah Lighting at the Whitby Public Library hosted by the Chabad Jewish Centre of Durham Region; and,
- the Town's 2025 Operating and Capital Budget.

## 8. Other Business

There was no other business.

## 9. Next Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

## 10. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That the meeting adjourn.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee on February 6, 2025.**