



Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

January 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Lynn Collins, Chair
Eva Guta
Jamil Qamar
Robin Steed, Vice-Chair
Anjali Thorve

Regrets: Vanessa Reid
Angela Thomas

Also Present: Councillor Lundquist, Mayor's Designate
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. 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, 2024 to December 31, 2024 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.

Eva Guta 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.

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

Robin Steed accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That Lynn Collins be appointed Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2024.

Carried

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That Robin Steed be appointed Vice-Chair of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2024.

Carried

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of December 7, 2023 be approved.

Carried

5. Presentations

There were no presentations.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. General Business and Reports

7.1 Review and Approval of 2024 Dates of Significance

Kim Evans presented the 2024 Dates of Significance and requested feedback from the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- adding National Ribbon Skirt Day, January 4, 2024, to the list; and,
- including a link to Town events associated with Dates of Significance that are posted on the Town's Flag Raisings and Proclamations webpage.

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee approve the 2024 Dates of Significance.

Carried

7.2 Review of 2023 Events, Sponsorships, and Presentations

Kim Evans reviewed the list of 2023 Events, Sponsorships, and Presentations the Committee participated in which included, An Evening with Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists, PRIDE Flag Raising, Drag Queen Storytime, Youth Pride Day, Indigenous Peoples Day Event, Indigenous Red Dress Beading Workshop, Harvest Festival, New Resident Bus Tour, and Emancipation Day.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- reflecting on successes and feedback received from residents for each event; and,
- including an inclusion statement when promoting upcoming events.

7.3 Work Plan Goals

Kim Evans provided an overview of the 2023-2026 Work Plan Goals. Ms. Evans requested feedback from the Committee regarding presentations and guest speakers for 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- following up with previous guest speakers;
- drafting a broad motion for Council's consideration regarding 'Commitment to Inclusion and Diversity';
- inviting groups to present at upcoming Committee meetings, such as the Community Development Council Durham (CDCD), Bridges Out of Poverty, and The Gap Committee;
- inviting groups to speak to challenges faced by Indigenous People in urban settings;
- addressing language barriers to services and connecting seniors with language barriers to the 55+ Recreation Programs;
- dispelling myths regarding refugee and immigrant support programs; and,
- including translation and accessibility widgets on the Town's registration webpages for community programs.

7.4 2024 Event Participation and Sponsorship Support

Kim Evans provided an overview of events and sponsorship support requests from partners for 2024. Ms. Evans advised that financial and volunteer support was requested by the organizers of the upcoming Black History Month, Canadian Black History, and An Evening with Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists events.

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee provide financial sponsorship for the upcoming Black History Month, Canadian Black History, and An Evening with Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists events.

Carried

7.5 2024 Guest Presentations

Note: Committee discussed Item 7.5, 2024 Guest Presentations, when hearing Item 7.3, Work Plan Goals.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Council Update

Councillor Lundquist provided an update regarding a motion moved by Councillor Shahid at the December 18, 2023, Regular Council meeting, Condemning All Acts of Hate.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Next Meeting

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

12. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee on February 1, 2024.