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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE

Thursday, March 30, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce was held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:12 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

A. Hector-Alexander read the following land acknowledgement:

We are currently located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among the Mississaugas Peoples and is the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. We honour, recognize and respect this nation and Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

2. Roll Call

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Bookal, Community Member
S. Byrne, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
PG Case, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Vice-Chair
R. Coelho, Community Member
A. Frempong, Community Member
Councillor Lee, Regional Council
J. Munawa, Community Member
B. Nelson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
C. Oyeniran, Community Member
R.O. Pule, Community Member
N. Samuel, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Chair
Councillor Shahid, Regional Council
K. Vieneer, Community Member
G. Wilson-Beier, Community Member

Also

Present: Councillor Anderson, Regional Council Alternate
B. Goodwin, Commissioner of Corporate Services

Absent: T. Hancock, Community Member
J. Williamson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative

Staff

Present: A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

A. Sharma, Policy Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by K. Vieneer,
That the minutes of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting
held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

6. Presentations

A) Welcome and Overview of Committee Structure

A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion provided a
PowerPoint Presentation entitled Welcome and Overview of Committee Structure.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Welcome
- Members
- Support Services
- Goal and Mandate
- Scope of Activities
- Membership Composition
- Term of Membership and Officers
- Meetings and Quorum
- Agendas and Minutes
- Committee Resolutions and Procedures
- Reporting Relationship
- Role of Committee Chair
- 2022 Annual Workplan: Four Areas of Focus

A. Hector-Alexander welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce (DRART) for 2023. She stated that the taskforce was developed to help ensure a consistent approach to addressing systemic racism within the communities in Durham Region.

A. Hector-Alexander provided an overview of the composition of the Committee and advised that the DRART consists of two members of Regional Council, a staff

liaison from Durham Region, ten (10) citizen members, and four (4) to six (6) members from industry, association, and public institutions. She also advised that the day-to-day activities of the staff liaison will be supported by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

A. Hector-Alexander reviewed the goals and mandate, scope of activities, membership composition, term of membership and officers, meetings, and quorum for the taskforce.

A. Hector-Alexander reviewed the advisory committee process and its reporting structure to Council including the term of membership; the role of the Chair and Vice-Chair; the meeting process; and quorum requirements.

A. Hector-Alexander also reviewed the agenda and minute preparation process; and the process for DRART resolutions to move forward for consideration by the Finance & Administration Committee and Council. She explained the reporting relationship of the DRART to Council and advised that the taskforce is subject to the Regional Procedural By-law unless otherwise specified in the Terms of Reference. She further advised that the role of Legislative Services staff is to provide support and guidance to the Chair and Committee members to ensure the meeting procedures are followed.

7. Introduction of Members

A. Hector-Alexander invited members of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce to introduce themselves and share why this work was important to them. The members introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of what brought them to this work.

8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Election of Chair

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Task Force.

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by P.G. Case,
That Nikki Samuel be nominated for the position of Chair of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Task Force.

Moved by C. Oyeniran, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

K. Smith asked if N. Samuel wished to stand. N. Samuel indicated she would stand.

N. Samuel was acclaimed as the Chair of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce.

Election of Vice-Chair

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Task Force.

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That P.G. Case be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the
Durham Region Anti-Racism Task Force.

Moved by G. Wilson-Beier, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

K. Smith asked if P.G. Case wished to stand. P.G. indicated he would stand.

P.G. Case was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Task Force.

9. Information Items

A) Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Terms of Reference

A. Hector Alexander advised that the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Terms of Reference was previously provided to members of the committee. She stated that Item 4 was updated to reflect working in subcommittees to address specific trends, needs, or systemic issues; Item 9.2 was updated to provide an honorarium of \$75 per meeting to committee members; and Item 9.3 was updated to allow for hybrid meetings.

A. Hector-Alexander responded to a question with regards to whether the format of meetings will be determined per meeting or have a set schedule.

10. Discussion Items

A) 2023 Priority Initiatives and Focus Areas

A. Hector-Alexander shared the 2022 Annual Workplan as a starting point to begin the process of establishing 2023 priority initiatives and focus areas.

Discussion ensued with regards to advocacy for anti-racism; rise in homelessness; condensing the scope of activities to be more attainable; developing SMART goals; receiving data from local municipalities to assist with work; accomplishments from the 2022 Annual Workplan; engagement and representation of youth; defining the age range of youth; and obtaining more partnerships within the community.

B) 2023 Meeting Frequency and Schedule

A. Hector-Alexander advised that with the current meeting schedule, the committee will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Discussion ensued with regards to the possibility of moving the meeting date to the third Wednesday of the month and moving to hybrid meetings. A. Hector-Alexander advised she would poll committee members regarding which date would work best.

11. Other Business

A) Emancipation Day Celebration

P. Hines advised there will be an Emancipation Day Celebration taking place on August 1, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:30 PM and is collaborating with community partners to plan the event.

B) Collaboration Work

Discussion ensued with regards to reaching out to local municipality committees and taskforces and working with diversity coordinators in developing priorities to have an aligned approach and avoid working in silos.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Shahid.
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Samuel, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk