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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE

Thursday, June 22, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce was held on Thursday, June 22, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:07 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

Chair Samuel read the following land acknowledgement:

We are currently located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among the Mississauga Peoples and is the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga 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: B. Goodwin, Commissioner of Corporate Services
S. Bookal*, Community Member, attended the meeting at 7:12 PM
S. Byrne, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
PG Case, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Vice-Chair
R. Coelho, Community Member
A. Frempong, Community Member
J. Munawa*, Community Member
C. Oyeniran*, Community Member
N. Samuel, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Chair
Councillor Shahid, Regional Council
K. Vieneer, Community Member, attended the meeting at 7:21 PM
J. Williamson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
G. Wilson-Beier, Community Member, attended the meeting at 7:57 PM
*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
T. Hancock, Community Member
Councillor Lee, Regional Council
B. Nelson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
R.O. Pule, Community Member

Staff

Present: A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
H. Mohammed, Policy Coordinator, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
A. Sharma, Policy Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

M. Barta, 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 A. Frempong, Seconded by PG Case,
That the minutes of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting
held on Thursday, May 25, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

6. Presentations

A) Gillian Venning, Durham District School Board (DDSB), re: DDSBs New Multi-Year Strategic Plan

The presentation was not heard as Gillian Venning, Durham District School Board, was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Information Items

There were no information items.

8. Discussion Items

A) Group Agreements

The Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Group Agreements document was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

A. Sharma advised that the Group Agreements document was established based on the information shared at the last meeting and provides conditions on the following three areas: participatory agreements; relational and ethical agreements; and functional agreements.

Discussion ensued with regards to establishing a mission statement, and having the Group Agreements displayed during meetings.

Moved by A. Frempong, Seconded by PG Case,
That the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Terms of Reference be amended to reference the Group Agreements.
CARRIED

B) Emancipation Day Event

P. Hines advised that the Emancipation Day Event will be taking place on August 1, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Audley Recreation Centre in the Town of Ajax with the theme being Liberation Legacy Progress. She further advised that Durham Region is working in partnership with the Town of Ajax, Municipality of Clarington, City of Pickering, City of Oshawa, Town of Whitby, Durham Family Culture Centre, The Welcome Centre, Durham Community Action Group, Womxn of Colour, Durham Collective, Unemployment Help Centre, Women's Multicultural Resource Centre, Canadian Jamaican Club of Oshawa, Ifarada Centre for Excellence, and Carea Community Health Centre, now called Durham Community Health Centre. She noted that the Anti-Racism Taskforce and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion subcommittees from Durham Region will be attending the event.

Discussion ensued with regards to Committee members providing support for the event; providing a giveaway at the event; activities for participants; whether children can attend the event; accessibility options for the event; registration for the event; food vendors; providing event flyers to community partners to spread the word; Committee members wearing identifying shirts; pouring of libations from an elder to ground the space; and playing the Black National Anthem.

C) Durham District School Board – Community Agency Networking Fair on August 21, 2023

Anu Sharma advised that the Durham District School Board is hosting a Community Agency Networking Fair on August 21, 2023 and that staff from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division will be attending the event. She invited members of the Committee to support the fair and staff a table as representatives of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce.

D) DRART Workplan

A. Hector-Alexander advised that the workplan for Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce will be presented to Regional Council in the Fall of 2023. She indicated that the Workplan will be used as a roadmap for the subcommittee working groups and that members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team would be available to support and provide resources. A. Hector-Alexander requested that each subcommittee nominate a lead to facilitate the work and provide updates to the Committee at each meeting.

Discussion ensued with regards to finalizing which subcommittee Committee members will be part of; which subcommittee the reporting tool should be placed under; and having subcommittee meetings throughout the summer months.

A. Hector-Alexander advised that the subcommittee updates will be added to the September 28, 2023 agenda.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by K. Vieneer,
That the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce subcommittee working
groups continue to work throughout the summer months.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Caste-Based Discrimination

Councillor Shahid advised that a group of people have reached out to enhance diversity regarding Caste-Based Discrimination being banned in Brampton and the Toronto District School Board and can pass along their information to present to the Committee in the Fall.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

Moved by PG Case, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

N. Samuel, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk