

**DATE:** APRIL 24, 2017 **MEETING NO. 04-2017**  
**TIME:** 12:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** MCNAUGHTON ROOM, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, CITY HALL  
**CHAIR:** MS. A. ABU-BAKARE AND MS. S. CARNEY

**PRESENT:**

Ms. Amina Abu-Bakare, *Community Representative*  
Mr. Ron Bourret, *Community Representative*  
Ms. Shawn Carney, *Community Representative*  
Mayor Keith Hobbs  
Councillor Rebecca Johnson  
Mr. Moffat Makuto, Ms. Destiny Mattinas,  
*Regional Multicultural Youth Council*  
Councillor Paul Pugh  
Mr. Vince Simon, *Community Representative*  
Mr. Corey Wesley, *Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee*

**REGRETS/ABSENT:**

Ms. Robyn Pepin, *Community Representative*  
Ms. Cathy Woodbeck, *Thunder Bay Multicultural Association*

**OFFICIALS:**

Mr. J. Hannam, City Clerk  
Ms. Lorraine MacPhail, Staffing & Organizational Development Specialist - Corporate Services & Long Term Care  
Ms. Ann Magiskan, Aboriginal Liaison  
Ms. Lee-Ann Chevrette, Coordinator - Crime Prevention Council  
Ms. Maureen Nadin, Committee Resource  
Ms. Linda Douglas, Committee Coordinator

**GUESTS:**

Ms. S. Hendrick, Public Engagement Framework  
Ms. J. Wright, Acting Communications Specialist, Corporate Strategic Services

1.0 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The Chair, Ms. A. Abu-Bakare, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

No disclosures of interest were declared at this time. A roundtable of introductions followed.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: Councillor P. Pugh  
SECONDED BY: Mayor K. Hobbs

With respect to the April 24, 2017 meeting of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

### 3.0 PRESENTATION

#### Connect Thunder Bay

City Council has directed Administration to develop a framework to better inform and involve residents on matters that pertain to neighbourhoods, municipal services planning and major City projects and initiatives. The guiding principles of this public participation framework are that it is to be inclusive, meaningful and responsive.

An important part of developing the framework is to find out what people want to know; what they want to provide input on; and how they wish to provide that input. Throughout the months of March and April a series of workshops, focus groups, meetings and public displays have been held to “engage people on how they wish to be engaged”. In addition an online survey has been available to respond to at [www.thunderbay.ca/connect](http://www.thunderbay.ca/connect).

The results of all this input will be used to inform the development of the framework. All the information and a recommendation for the framework will be presented to Council in a first report at the end of May. The community will then have a month to provide feedback on the framework and the report.

Ms. Sheelagh Hendrick, the facilitator for the Connect Thunder Bay workshops, had requested to attend the Anti-Racism and Respect Advisory Committee meeting to work through a series of questions with the Committee and to hear and record their perspectives and feedback.

Ms. Hendrick provided an overview of the public engagement framework. The City would like to improve how it communicates with the public and how the public gets information on what the City is doing.

The main areas of focus for public engagement include neighbourhoods, municipal service plans, and major city projects and initiatives.

Citizens can provide input to the City via deputations to City Council, ward meetings, email to the Mayor and City Councillors, etc.

Copies of a feedback form were distributed to Committee members for completion. Areas requesting feedback included:

- Know – ongoing information that you want from The City of Thunder Bay;
- Input – items citizens want to give the City feedback on i.e. potholes, budget, etc.;
- Involve – you’re interested enough to attend a public event to participate;
- Shape: make a commitment to the City by sitting on an advisory committee, etc.

Each Committee member was asked to complete the feedback form at the meeting. Ms. Hendrick committed to providing a summary of the Committee’s feedback to them at a later

date. It was noted that their comments will be part of a full report that will be presented to City Council.

On the reverse side of the feedback form, Committee members were asked to provide information on the following:

- Get – if you want to find out what is going on in the City, what do you do?

Citizens currently find out what is happening with the City through the local newspaper, radio, Facebook, Twitter and the City’s website. Ms. J. Wright, Acting Communications Specialist, provided an overview of the City’s website and enhancements being planned for the website.

Discussion was held relative to what happens with the feedback provided to the City. Citizens would like to hear back about what happened with their feedback. The City needs to be clear about why they need the information and what they are going to do with it; they need to build relationships – the City needs to be clear about the rationale.

- Give – if you want your voice heard/if you want to talk to the City, what do you do?

It was noted that citizens need to hear back from the City when they submit concerns. They need to “close the loop”. This is not happening on a regular basis.

- Prevent: what might prevent you from having your voice heard?
  - Many citizens would like to speak with a real person; they don’t want to leave a message on voicemail.
  - It was noted that people transitioning from other communities are not aware of City services.
  - Language barriers may prevent citizens from having their voice heard.
  - There is a perceived attitude that nobody at the City cares about your opinion.
  - Young people feel that their opinions won’t be heard or respected.

Postcards were distributed to Committee members with a link for more information. There is also an opportunity to complete the survey on [www.thunderbay.ca/connect](http://www.thunderbay.ca/connect).

Ms. Hendrick encouraged people to provide their feedback on the Pingstreet App.

At 12:46 p.m., the presentation ended and Ms. Hendrick and Ms. Wright were thanked for appearing before the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee.

Ms. A. Abu-Bakare requested that Ms. S. Carney assume the position of Chair. Ms. Carney agreed, and assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

#### 4.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 03-2017 of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee held on March 27, 2017 to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Mr. R. Bourret  
SECONDED BY: Ms. A. Abu-Bakare

THAT the Minutes of Meetings No. 03-2017 of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, held on March 27, 2017, be confirmed.

CARRIED

#### 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

##### Roll-Up Banners

At the March 27, 2017 Committee meeting, design options for the Committee's Roll-Up Banner were presented for the Committee's consideration.

A revised roll-up banner will be presented at the May 29, 2017 Committee meeting.

#### 6.0 OVERVIEW OF ROUNDTABLE AGAINST RACISM

On Monday, April 3, 2017, the Committee's inaugural Roundtable Against Racism was held at the Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Centre.

There were 49 representatives from community organizations in attendance, including members from the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee and the Incidence Reporting Work Group.

Councillor R. Johnson provided an overview of the summary of comments made on the feedback forms (50% of participants completed a feedback form), including suggestions for future roundtables.

Overall, the feedback was very positive.

The Working Group for the next Roundtable Against Racism will be comprised of Councillor R. Johnson, Ms. A. Abu-Bakare, and Mr. V. Simon. Ms. R. Pepin will also be contacted about continuing on this Working Group.

#### 7.0 MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Discussion was held relative to inviting members of City Council and the City Manager to attend the May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Committee meeting to discuss further action the Committee would like to see from City Council.

Ms. A. Abu-Bakare provided an overview of her presentation of the Annual Highlights Report to City Council on April 10, 2017. She was disappointed and dismayed that members of Council did not ask any questions or ask how they can help.

Ms. Abu-Bakare noted that minorities in Thunder Bay are experiencing racism and that the Committee needs to meet with City Council to discuss what is really going on in the City. She noted that there are currently two grass roots movements taking place in Thunder Bay.

Mr. J. Hannam, City Clerk, provided an overview of the role of advisory committees to Council, and noted that this Committee has not made recommendations to Council in recent years. The role of the Committee member is to step up and achieve the objectives on the Work Plan; the work of the Committee should not be left up to City staff to do. This Committee in itself cannot solve racism; however, it can make recommendations to Council.

Ms. S. Carney advised that this Committee needs to meet with Council for 2-way communication on what is happening in the city.

Discussion was held relative to the April 10<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting. It was noted that the meeting had a full/lengthy agenda and councillors kept questions to a minimum in order to keep the agenda going. Councillor P. Pugh noted that, relative to the lack of questions asked, there was no disrespect intended or lack of interest about racism by the councillors.

Mayor K. Hobbs provided an overview of the number of times and occasions where he has publicly denounced racism in the city; he supports the Indigenous community. He noted that the City will be addressing and responding to the recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest; however, we need to do more for other minorities in the community; we cannot just focus on the Indigenous community when it comes to racism.

Ms. Abu-Bakare would like to have a joint meeting with Council to discuss what is happening in Thunder Bay. She noted that everyone on Council is white. She would also like to see discussions about racism at ward meetings. She noted that she attends various events on racism in the community on her own time, and she did give a speech at a meeting of Leadership Thunder Bay.

Ms. A. Magiskan spoke about respect and the Respect button she was wearing. There are preconceived ideas and misconceptions in the community. She referred to Ms. S. Hendrick's presentation earlier in the meeting, and the importance of how the City communicates with the public.

Ms. L. Chevrette, Coordinator - Crime Prevention Council, thanked Ms. Abu-Bakare for her comments. She noted that we don't all experience racism the same way. She noted that this committee hasn't used its power to proper use, and supports the idea of a joint meeting. She provided an overview of her training sessions on Respect and how some don't think the Respect initiative is important.

Councillor R. Johnson noted the importance of making recommendations to Council. This Committee needs to be willing to take the lead on organizing a community discussion about racism over and above the next Roundtable Against Racism. We also need to suggest solutions on addressing racism at the community discussions. Councillor Johnson reported that she has been in touch with the Provincial Secretariat Responsible for Anti-Racism and has requested funding for the Incident Reporting initiative. This Committee needs to promote itself.

MOVED BY: Councillor R. Johnson  
SECONDED BY: Ms. A. Abu-Bakare

THAT the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee purchases promotional material and promotes itself in the community in order to have conversations about racism.

CARRIED

Discussion was held relative to what is currently being done in the schools. Ms. L. Chevrette provided an overview of providing the Respect module to students in Grades 4 and 5. There is a need to promote the Respect initiative to other grades; however, the Crime Prevention Office does not have the capacity at this time.

Mr. M. Makuto, Regional Multicultural Youth Council, provided an overview of last Friday's YEDE Conference (Youth Embracing Diversity in Education). He noted that we need to do more for black-skinned youth. He commented that if the City is so compassionate about racism, why aren't they just as compassionate about human rights? He would like to see Councillors as compassionate about racism as they are about the Event Centre. He noted that youth are happy that First Nation lands are now being recognized, but there needs to be more work done on human rights. He cited the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States.

Discussion was held relative to organizing a working group to plan a meeting with City Council. Members felt strongly that direction has to come from within the Committee on how the meeting with Council will proceed. It cannot come from Administration.

A working group was organized for promoting the Committee and improving communications with City Council; Councillor R. Johnson, Mr. M. Makuto and Mr. R. Bourret will be part of the working group. The temporary working title will be the Promotion Working Group until a permanent name is selected.

## 8.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS IN THUNDER BAY

Copies of the Briefing Note presented at the 2017 OGRA (Ontario Good Roads Association) Annual Conference were provided for information.

Mayor K. Hobbs provided an overview of the Briefing Note. Since the 2011 EMO Conference, and again at this year's OGRA Conference, Council has been lobbying the provincial government for the establishment of an Office of Indigenous Relations in Thunder Bay.

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, David Zimmer, is very receptive to the idea due to the large Indigenous population in the City and surrounding area.

Mayor Hobbs and Mr. J. Hannam responded to questions.

9.0 WORKING GROUP UPDATES – Deferred to next meeting.

10.0 2015 – 2018 WORK PLAN – Deferred to next meeting.

**Committee members are asked to bring their copy of the  
2015 – 2018 Work Plan to each meeting.**

11.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS – Due to time constraints, there were no announcements made.

12.0 NEW BUSINESS

Ms. M. Nadin, Committee Resource, advised that she has contacts who can teach adults on how to be allies and stand up when they see racism in the community. She would be happy to arrange for their services if there is interest.

13.0 NEXT MEETING

Committee meetings are held on the last Monday of each month, except July, August, and December, commencing at 12:00 p.m. in the McNaughton Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of City Hall, as confirmed at the November 28, 2016 meeting of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, unless otherwise notified.

Additional Item for Consideration:

- Discussion RE: Ontario's 3-Year Anti-Racism Strategic Plan (released March, 2017) (proposed for May 29, 2017 Committee meeting)

Next Meeting:

- Monday, May 29, 2017
- Monday, June 19, 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in June)
- Monday, September 25, 2017
- Monday, October 30, 2017
- Monday, November 27, 2017

Outstanding Item:

- Presentation of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy for a future meeting [Work Plan Objective 8].

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Before the meeting adjourned, Ms. Carney commented that racism is an emotional subject and hopes no one will get discouraged.

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.