

DATE: MAY 29, 2017 **MEETING NO. 05-2017**
TIME: 12:00 P.M.
PLACE: MCNAUGHTON ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CITY HALL
CHAIR: MS. A. ABU-BAKARE

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, *Regional Multicultural Youth Council*
Ms. Robyn Pepin, *Community Representative*
Councillor Paul Pugh
Mr. Corey Wesley, *Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee*
Ms. Cathy Woodbeck, *Thunder Bay Multicultural Association*

OFFICIALS:

Ms. Karen Lewis, Director - Corporate Strategic Services
Ms. Maureen Nadin, Committee Resource

REGRETS:

Mr. Vince Simon, *Community Representative*

1.0 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The Chair, Ms. A. Abu-Bakare, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. There were no disclosures of interest declared at this time.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Ms. S. Carney requested that an Ontario Human Rights Report on racial profiling be added under New Business.

MOVED BY: Mayor K. Hobbs
SECONDED BY: Mr. Ron Bourret

With respect to the May 29, 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 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 04-2017 of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee held

on April 24, 2017, to be confirmed.

Ms. A. Abu-Bakare requested a change to Page 9 of the minutes. The seventh paragraph, last sentence should reflect that she gave a speech to Leadership Thunder Bay, not Stand Up Against Racism.

MOVED BY: Ms. S. Carney
SECONDED BY: Mr. R. Bourret

THAT the Minutes of Meetings No. 04-2017 of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, held on April 24, 2017, be confirmed.

CARRIED

4.0 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.

Ms. K. Lewis, Director - Corporate Strategic Services recommended that, in view of recent discussions in the community, further discussion about the banner be deferred to the June 19th meeting. She will send out copies of the banner art work and notes to committee members for review prior to the next meeting on June 19th.

5.0 ONTARIO'S 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Ontario released its 3-Year Anti-Racism Strategic Plan in March, 2017; it can be found on-line at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/better-way-forward-ontarios-3-year-anti-racism-strategic-plan>.

Copies of the Executive Summary were distributed separately on desks at the meeting for information.

Councillor Johnson provided an overview of the report and advised that the Anti-Racism office is still in the stage of data collection related to systemic racism and discrimination. She advised that the Policy Advisor for the Anti-Racism Directorate, George Bancroft, has offered to teleconference with the Committee for further discussion and questions. The Committee was in agreement; Councillor Johnson will make the appropriate arrangements.

6.0 EDITORIALS – CHRONICLE JOURNAL

On May 19, 2017, the following article was posted on the Editorial page of the Chronicle Journal and on-line at the Chronicle Journal website:

Editorial: "Now is not the time" by the CJ Editor:

http://www.chroniclejournal.com/opinion/editorials/now-is-not-the-time/article_83e88e90-3c18-11e7-8d9a-3706fadd72d6.html

40 comments about the article were posted by anonymous bloggers, who shared their views on more than the actual subject article. Many comments were viewed as racist despite Rule of Conduct #4 (for the website).

The Committee discussed what action could be taken to ensure that the Chronicle Journal ceases or reconsiders its practice of posting comments from anonymous online posters. It was generally agreed that the Committee has no control over what the paper does and the Committee has already met with CJ management in the past to discuss this issue. There was some discussion about whether it is time to look at the possibility of another meeting.

Ms. K. Lewis recommended that the Committee send a letter to the Chronicle Journal stating that, for the record, the Committee disagrees with the newspaper's practice of allowing anonymous comments from online posters, some of which are negative and racist in nature. Because of this, the Committee would respectfully request that the paper discontinue this practice and only accept comments from posters who identify themselves.

7.0 2015 – 2018 WORK PLAN

The Work Plan was reviewed with a focus on objectives that will be accomplished by the end of 2017.

Before starting her overview of the plan, Councillor R. Johnson thanked Mr. R. Bourret and Mr. M. Makuto for their assistance and hard work in putting the plan together.

Councillor Johnson stated that one of the main focuses of the Work Plan at this point will be to plan and provide a "Newcomer's Day" that will take place at City Hall on June 27th of this year.

Ms. A. Abu-Bakare stated that international students from Confederation College and Lakehead University should be invited to attend Newcomer's Day.

Mr. M. Makuto provided the dates of other cultural events that are taking place in June, all leading up to Canada Day on July 1st:

- June 21st - National Aboriginal Day;
- June 24th - St. Jean Baptiste Day (a celebration of French Canadian culture);
- June 27th - Multicultural Day.

He also advised that Dilico will be hosting a Pow Wow on June 9th at Fort William First Nation and they have invited the RMYC to attend.

He also offered to provide a table at the waterfront during these activities to the Committee for highlighting information and displaying marketing material on the Incident Reporting initiative and/or other information on the Anti-Racism Committee. Ms. K. Lewis advised that the marketing materials will likely not be ready until the end of June and therefore not in time for these events.

Mayor K. Hobbs commented on the Truth and Reconciliation Report goal and stated that the plan should include and refer to Fort William First Nation as well as NAN. He also suggested that the Work Plan be reviewed by both NAN and FWFN.

In regards to the Urban Reserve goal, Mr. C. Wesley stated that the word “Reserve” has negative connotations for Indigenous people and that a different word be considered. Mayor Hobbs suggested that the Committee look at what Saskatoon and Winnipeg are doing in this regard and what terminology they are using.

Ms. K. Lewis raised some issues about the Welcoming Initiative to discuss with the Committee. She suggested that the Initiative be split into two parts and that the term “welcome” not be used for the students from the Northern communities. She stated that this has been discussed with representatives from those communities as a result of one of the recommendations from the Seven Youth Inquest. She suggested that other terms like “connect” or “orientation” be considered. This was discussed by the Committee, with further discussion being deferred to the June 19th meeting. In the meantime, Ms. Lewis will forward a copy of the testimony from the inquest about this issue for Committee members to review.

Ms. L. Lewis also stated that the Indigenous Specific Strategy for the Incident Reporting Initiative is missing from the Work plan.

Ms. K. Lewis also spoke to the goal of the Committee staffing, specifically the hiring of a part-time coordinator for the Anti -Racism Committee, identified in the Work Plan as falling under the Aboriginal Liaison Office. She advised that her office will be hiring a new Respect Intern who could also work for the Committee.

Ms. K. Lewis asked the Committee when they wanted to arrange a business meeting with City Council. Mr. R. Bourret stated that the meeting would be premature at this point, and that more planning time would be required for the Committee to determine exactly what they wish to discuss with Council.

MOVED BY: Mr. R. Bourret
SECONDED BY: Councillor Paul Pugh

THAT the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee endorses the Work Plan, as presented at the May 29, 2017 Committee meeting, with the understanding that it is a “work in progress” and that changes will be made as required.

CARRIED

8.0 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

8.1 Incidence Reporting Working Group

Ms. S. Carney advised that the marketing strategy and materials are being finalized and the launch is tentatively scheduled for June 27th at 11 a.m. at the Lakehead Social Planning office in Victoriaville Mall.

MOVED BY: Mr. R. Bourret

SECONDED BY: Ms. R. Pepin

THAT the Indigenous Specific Strategy, as presented at the May 29, 2017 meeting of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, be approved.

CARRIED

8.2 Respect Working Group – No Update

8.3 Roundtable Against Racism

Councillor R. Johnson advised that a planning meeting will take place on June 7th for the next Roundtable Against Racism, which is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2017 at Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Centre.

8.4 One City, Many Voices

Ms. R. Pepin advised that she has column writers lined up until December but welcomed any unscheduled submissions to keep in reserve in the event that a scheduled writer cancels out.

8.5 Improve Housing Situation Working Group

Mr. R. Bourret advised that the scheduled meeting was cancelled due to the ice storm in April, and has not been rescheduled to date.

9.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor R. Johnson advised that second Oversight Police Review Report is now available.

She also advised that the “Kitchen Table Conversations”, a provincial collaboration of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition and the Ontario Network of Employment Skills Training Project (ONESTEP) is scheduled for September 29th. Location to be confirmed.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS

Ms. S. Carney updated the Committee about the Ontario Human Rights Report on racial profiling. She was asked by TBT News to provide feedback from the Anti-Racism & Respect

Advisory Committee on the report and provided information about the upcoming Incident Reporting program. Monitoring of incidents was one of the recommendations of the report.

The Committee was also advised of the Indigenous Youth Awareness Walk which will take place on Thursday, June 1st at 1 p.m., starting at City Hall and concluding at the Police Station.

11.0 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, 3rd Floor of City Hall, as confirmed at the November 28, 2016 meeting of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, unless otherwise notified.

Next Meeting:

- Monday, June 19, 2017 (3rd 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]. Councillor R. Johnson suggested that the Committee ask Cynthia Olsen and Alice Bellavance to do a presentation on this topic.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.