



Joint Accessibility Advisory & Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

March 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Present: Larry Brual
Anisa Capener
Lynn Collins
Victoria Formusa
Eva Guta
Colleen Haley
Liam Lacy
Jamil Qamar
Michael Richards
Paul Scott
Robin Steed
Marta Swirydowicz
Angela Thomas
Anjali Thorve

Regrets: Denise Laframboise
Vanessa Reid

Also Present: Councillor Shahid, Mayor's Designate
Shelby Moffat, Whitby Public Library Representative
John Romano, Commissioner, Community Services
Michele Cotton, Staff Liaison, Accessibility Coordinator
Kim Evans, Staff Liaison, Supervisor, 55+ Recreation Services
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)

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1. Call to Order
 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by Eva Guta

That the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of February 3, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. General Business and Reports

4.1 Committee Member Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their experience and interest in serving on the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

4.2 Committee Mandate Reviews

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Michele Cotton provided an overview of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's mandate. Ms. Cotton stated that the Committee works within the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and standards enacted after the Act. She further stated that the Committee's role was provincially mandated to advise Council, and provide feedback to ensure services are accessible and inclusive to all community members and visitors.

Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Kim Evans provided an overview of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's mandate. Ms. Evans stated that each term the Committee develops a workplan that includes six overarching goals including:

- providing input to Council on the elimination of barriers for the diverse population;
- fostering a greater understanding of ethno-cultural and diversity issues within the Town through community partnerships;
- taking steps to include diverse groups in the activities of the Committee;

- providing input to Town Staff in the development of policies and developing awareness of ethno-cultural relations;
- providing input into the development of public engagement strategies; and,
- providing consultation, research, and report findings and making recommendations on matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Town of Whitby.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- current practices for advertising events;
- alternative methods for advertising events such as email distribution lists and newsletters; and,
- whether Members would receive communication materials to post on their social media accounts or for distributing via email.

4.3 Brainstorming Joint Initiatives

Discussion ensued regarding joint initiatives including:

- an all abilities walk;
- a Newcomer bus tour; and,
- events to promote community awareness and education about accessibility, diversity, equity and inclusion topics.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- an information session on employee rights;
- setting up information booths at community events;
- collaborating to review the data collected from community surveys completed during previous Committee terms;
- engaging community partners on workshops regarding employee rights and resources;
- offering workshops regarding housing rights and researching grants for hosting workshops or education sessions;
- supporting events that are accessible;
- showcasing events on the Town's website; and,

- reaching out to other committees regarding collaborative initiatives.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Council Update

Councillor Shahid provided an update regarding:

- the Whitby Sports Complex has moved into its next phase of development;
- the Ready Set Future Economic Development and Tourism strategy from the Region of Durham;
- the Envision Durham, Draft Regional Official Plan; and,
- a Safe-Arrival Policy for provincially licensed child care providers.

7. Other Business

Kim Evans provided an update regarding the Black Poetry Night event hosted by the Whitby Public Library on April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Evans stated that the April Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting would be held at the Whitby Public Library and begin at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate Members attending the Black Poetry Night event.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Anisa Capener

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.