



Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

February 6, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Present: Lynn Collins, Chair
Eva Guta
Robin Steed
Angela Thomas

Regrets: Vanessa Drekman, Vice-Chair
Jamil Qamar
Anjali Thorve

Also Present: Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate
Erica Mittag, Staff Liaison, Manager, 55+ Recreation,
Accessibility and Diversity
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording
Secretary)

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 Robin Steed

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee minutes of January 2, 2025 be approved.

Carried

4. Delegations

There were no delegations.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 7.1, Drag Queen Story Time Event, at this time.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Durham Region's Black History Month Event Update

Angela Thomas provided an update regarding Durham Region's Black History Month Event. Ms. Thomas stated that the Black History Month Event was well received and that the event was sold out.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 6, Council Update, at this time.

5.2 Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Cookbook Project Update

Erica Mittag provided an update regarding the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (WDIAC) Cookbook Project. Ms. Mittag stated that the WDIAC Cookbook would be posted on the Connect Whitby website for residents to upload recipes and photos.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- removing the 'comment' feature for posted recipes;
- methods for determining whether images uploaded to the Cookbook are copyright materials; and,
- details about the WDIAC Cookbook soft launch.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5.1, Durham Region's Black History Month Event Update, at this time.

5.3 Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee March Meeting Agenda Discussion

Note: This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

5.4 Committee Swag

Note: This matter was deferred to a future Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting.

5.5 Days of Significance - National Indigenous Veterans Day

Erica Mittag stated that National Indigenous Veterans Day was not included on the Days of Significance list approved by the Committee in

2024. Ms. Mittag advised that National Indigenous Veterans Day is November 8, 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- supporting National Indigenous Veterans Day;
- including National Indigenous Veterans Day on the Days of Significance list;
- laying a wreath at one of the Town's cenotaphs on National Indigenous Veterans Day; and,
- contacting the Whitby Legion and Indigenous veterans to consult on the next steps for honouring, celebrating, and raising awareness of National Indigenous Veterans Day.

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee recognize National Indigenous Veterans Day as a Day of Significance and include National Indigenous Veterans Day on the Days of Significance list.

Carried

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5.2, Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Cookbook Project Update, at this time.

- 5.6 See the Hate, Stop the Hate, Reporting Hate Activity Initiative - Durham Region Anti-Racism Task Force

Note: This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

6. Council Update

Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:

- a resolution by Council regarding a Rental Unit Renovation By-law and Renovation Licence Program;
- a resolution by Council regarding Combatting Antisemitism and Hate Motivated Criminal Acts which includes directing the Chief Administrative Officer to report on the possibility of establishing a protocol or policy to notify various human rights organizations when hate motivated criminal acts are identified by Town staff and to consult with Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS); and,

- a resolution by Council supporting B'nai Brith's call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography.

7. Other Business

7.1 Drag Queen Story Time

Erica Mittag stated that the Durham Children's Aid Society and Whitby Public Library were hosting Drag Queen Story Time on May 31, 2025. Ms. Mittag advised that the event would take place at the Heydenshore Pavilion and that the Whitby Public Library requested funding from the Committee to assist with the cost of renting the facility.

Recommendation:

Moved by Robin Steed

That \$500 be drawn from the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's 2025 annual budget to cover the cost of the Heydenshore Pavilion facility rental fee for Drag Queen Story Time hosted by the Durham Children's Aid Society and Whitby Public Library.

Carried

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5.5, Days of Significance - National Indigenous Veterans Day, at this time.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Angela Thomas

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.