

Minutes - Race Relations Advisory Committee

July 22, 2020 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Woodstock Police Headquarters

In attendance: Jaspreet Sandhu, Jessica Hofstetter, Hannah Hodder, Marci Shelton, Ruth Blass, Daryl Longworth

Regrets: Mohamed Ismail, Jag Rai

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Minutes from the June 16th were approved by the group.
3. There was a discussion around some concerns voiced to members of the committee surrounding the June 4th changes to a city by-law which appeared to prohibit protests at Victoria Park and concern from some in the community that this was an attempt to shut down the planned peaceful protest on June 7th. Daryl advised that he had reached out to the city who assured him that this was not the case, that the changes really had to deal with an unrelated issue occurring at Museum Square. Jessica advised that she had received similar reassurances from the Mayor.
4. Terms of reference were reviewed and approved. There was as a discussion about one of the deliverables being to guide the police service in providing anti-racism and bias-awareness training and in developing a Diversity Plan. It was decided that the committee will identify other deliverables in keeping with the approved mandate as the group develops.

Discussion was held about the co-chair position as both Jessica Hofstetter and Hanna Hodder had expressed interest. That led into a discussion as to whether or not the police needed to be one of the co-chairs or if the committee should be co-chaired by two community members. It was decided that the police should play a role as one of the co-chairs. It was then agreed that Jessica and Hannah would decide after the meeting who would be the primary community co-chair and who would be the secondary co-chair with the idea that then there would always be a back-up chair in the absence of the other.

Marci and Daryl would also agree upon who would be the primary and secondary co-chair.

5. Committee Name

After much discussion the list of names suggested from the agenda were narrowed down to the following two:

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
Diversity Equity Council

Everyone agreed that the term “racism” should be included as should “advisory”. After exploring a number of variations of the above two names, all agreed to select “Anti-Racism Advisory Council” as the name for the committee.

6. See item #4. Primary and Secondary co-chairs for both police and the community to be identified and named prior to the next meeting.
7. Media release. It was decided that as all members were not present, we would defer the media release until after the next meeting where a group photo would be obtained and Primary Co-Chairs identified. Co-chairs would provide a quote for the media release and speak to the media if required.
8. Discussion was held regarding the creation of a website. Although this could be a longer term goal, there was concern about cost and where the funding would come from. Daryl advised that he would explore adding a page or a link to the WPS website. All agreed it was important to post meeting agendas and minutes for review by the public. Daryl will report back at the next meeting.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. Next meeting will be scheduled in August. Date will be selected via doodle poll.