

Committee Room E
City Hall, Saskatoon, SK
Thursday, February 13, 2014
at 12:10 p.m.

MINUTES

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Mr. Mike San Miguel, A/Chair
Ms. Phoebe Fosseneuve in attendance for Ms. Sharon Clarke
Ms. Jennifer Hingley
Dr. Azharul Islam
Ms. Nayyar Javed
Mr. Toffic Salah
Mr. Sam Sambasivam
Ms. Karen Schofield
Mr. Chris Sicotte
Ms. Tori-Lynn Wanotch
Ms. Kari Wuttunee
Inspector Mitch Yuzdepski on behalf of Police Chief Clive Weighill
Director of Aboriginal Relations Dorval
Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator Sasakamoose Kuffner
Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant Sora
Committee Secretary Fast

1. Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of meeting held on January 9, 2014, be approved.

2. Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee – 25th Anniversary
(File No. CK. 225-40)

The Committee Secretary advised that this item was placed on the agenda for an update from the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations 25th Anniversary Planning Committee, as well as to determine the budget amount for the celebration.

Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator Sasakamoose Kuffner provided an update noting that planning is moving forward with the 25th anniversary gala which will correspond with the anti-racism forum being held around the same time. The tentative venue is the Western Development Museum on Saturday, October 25, 2014.

Ms. Sasakamoose Kuffner requested the Committee to approve a budget amount which would be allocated to the celebration.

The Committee discussed, and was in agreement with, the possibility of obtaining external sponsorship or partnerships for the event in order to receive additional funding.

Dr. Azharul Islam entered the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

RESOLVED: that \$6,000 be allocated from the Education and Awareness portion of the Committee's budget to be used for the 25th anniversary celebration.

3. 2014 Education and Awareness Initiatives
Co-Sponsorship Request
(File No. CK. 225-40-10)

The Committee Secretary submitted a Co-Sponsorship Request Application from Mahasti Khakpour, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, for the 50 Years of Embracing Multiculturalism event to be held on June 29, 2014, at Meewasin Park. The Co-Sponsorship Request is in the amount of \$1,000.

The Committee discussed the co-sponsorship request, including the request for an Aboriginal representative from the Committee to sit on the organizing committee. Ms. Karen Schofield volunteered to represent the Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee provide co-sponsorship to the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association for the 50 Years of Embracing Multiculturalism event to be held on June 29, 2014, at Meewasin Park in the amount of \$1,000.

4. Appointment of Ad Hoc Subcommittees
(File No. CK. 255-40)

Report of the Committee Secretary:

"While the Committee does not have the authority to appoint long-term ad hoc subcommittees, it would be appropriate to appoint short-term ad hoc subcommittees established for a specific purpose. The ad hoc

subcommittees will report to the full committee for final determination of all matters. Ad hoc subcommittees will typically be appointed at the January meeting for the following:

- a) Adjudication and reporting on co-sponsorship requests received relating to Cultural Diversity and Race Relations education and awareness initiatives; and
- b) Adjudication of Living in Harmony contest submissions and assistance with the Living in Harmony Awards and Opening Ceremonies.

The ad hoc subcommittees are to include the Chair and at least two other members, with Administrative staff as advisors (Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator or Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, depending on availability).

Attached is further information regarding the co-sponsorship adjudication deadlines and review process, as outlined in the Co-Sponsorship Guidelines, Criteria and Process dated December 5, 2011.

For 2013 the ad hoc subcommittees consisted of the following members:

Co-Sponsorship Adjudication Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

Ms. Sharon Clarke, Ms. Kari Wuttunee, Inspector Mitch Yuzdepski

Adjudication of the Living in Harmony contest submissions Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

Ms. Caroline Cottrell, Ms. Karen Schofield, Ms. Cornelia Laliberte

The Committee is requested to appoint ad hoc subcommittee members for 2014.”

The following Committee members volunteered for the Co-Sponsorship Adjudication Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

- Chris Sicotte, Mitch Yuzdepski, and Sam Sambasivam.

The following Committee members volunteered for the Living in Harmony Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

- Kari Wuttunee, Tori-Lynn Wanotch, and Mike San Miguel.

RESOLVED: that the adjudication ad hoc subcommittee members be approved as listed.

5. Capacity for Newcomer Settlement and Integration in Saskatoon: Taking Stock for Taking Action (File No. CK. 100-21)

The Committee Secretary submitted an excerpt from the minutes of meeting held on January 9, 2014.

Ms. April Sora continued the review of the report from the previous meeting held on January 9, 2014, and provided an overview of the initiatives that have taken place since 2012 when the focus groups first began for this report.

Mr. Toffic Salah entered the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

The following was noted:

- Since 2008 the Saskatoon Police Service has formed the Cultural Resource Unit which consists of four constables who do a great deal of work in the community.
- There has been significant growth in the language and literacy area.
- The initiation of the Health Bus provides service for newcomers and individuals with lower-income levels, and brings service out to the community.
- Initiatives have been undertaken at the community level to help newcomers find work, particularly newcomers who are French speaking.
- Innovative housing arrangements for international students at the University of Saskatchewan share living pods with students born in Canada.
- There needs to be much more done and increased connectivity and increased coordination to ensure increased services for newcomers.

Ms. Sora noted that many of the people who participated in the focus groups noted needs of newcomers are not fully met for a variety of reasons, including:

- Unaware of programs/services
- Unclear how to access services and programs
- Ineligibility
- Choose not to access or are unable to access because of limited spaces
- Can only access during their first few years after arrival, even if some needs extend beyond the first few years
- Unable to attend learning language classes because of working day and night and then no longer eligible when able to attend

Ms. Munaza Elahi was in attendance at the meeting and requested to address the Committee. Ms. Elahi requested any statistics in terms of employment, as well assistance with the issue of needing Canadian experience when searching for employment in Canada. Even though a person has worked in a professional area in their home country, a barrier is created when trying to find employment in Canada for this reason.

RESOLVED: that the information be received.

6. Communication to Council
From: David Durkin
Date: December 10, 2013
Subject: Commemoration for the late Nelson Mandela
(File No. CK. 205-5)

Report of the Committee Secretary:

“City Council, at its meeting held on January 6, 2014, considered the above-noted letter with respect to the death of Nelson Mandela. Council passed a motion that the matter be referred to the Administration and the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee to consider and report on a form of commemoration (naming, statue, etc.) in recognition of the late Nelson Mandela.

The letter referred to above is attached.”

Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator Sasakamoose Kuffner noted that the letter had also been referred to her office for review. Ms. Sasakamoose Kuffner advised that she will be providing an update to the Planning and Operations Committee in April and will update the Committee at that time as well. In addition, the month of March has been proclaimed Race Relations Month. As part of the various activities planned throughout the month, recognizing Mr. Mandela will be included.

RESOLVED: that the information be received.

7. Inappropriate Use of Aboriginal Images for Mascots/Slogans
(File No. CK. 100-10)

The Committee Secretary advised that at the meeting of the Committee held on January 9, 2014, Ms. Sasakamoose Kuffner advised that she had received information about a movement that was taking place to stop the inappropriate use of aboriginal images for mascots, slogans, etc.

Ms. Sasakamoose Kuffner noted that she was approached before Christmas about the possibility of the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee providing a public statement about inappropriate use of mascots in slogans and she was asked to bring this forward to the Committee.

She noted that in discussion with City Administration it was suggested that perhaps not a public statement be made, but to identify ways to provide information and create awareness about this issue. She noted that part of the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy states there will be zero tolerance for racism or discrimination in Saskatoon.

It was noted that this is a very complex issue and there are a variety of differing opinions and feelings in the community. There are alternative ways to provide awareness as well as continued work on the issues and complexity of racism in general.

RESOLVED: that the information be received.

8. Update from Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator
(File No. CK. 100-10)

Ms. Becky Sasakamoose Kuffner, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator, provided a verbal update regarding initiatives she is involved in through the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Office.

Ms. Sasakamoose Kuffner noted the following:

- The month of March has been proclaimed Race Relations Month in Saskatoon. The opening ceremony will be held on March 3 in Council Chambers. Planning is going ahead and an event planner has been hired.
- March 7 is the annual youth leadership summit at the Ramada Hotel. Unified Minds, a group of young people, have played a major role in planning and organizing the summit.
- March 21 is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the 2014 Living in Harmony Awards ceremony will be held at Centennial Collegiate on that date to recognize local organizations or individuals for their efforts in promoting intercultural harmony in the community.

RESOLVED: that the information be received.

9. Update from Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant
(File No. CK. 100-21)

The Committee Secretary submitted an update from Ms. April Sora, Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, regarding the Immigration Initiatives.

Ms. Sora noted that the Contact Conference is being held on April 8 and 9, 2014, which is put on by Saskatoon Industry Education Council. As well, Prairie Prism will be held on September 29, 2014, and Ms. Sora asked Committee members to save the date.

RESOLVED: that the information be received.

10. Aboriginal Relations Year End Review & Looking Ahead
(File No. CK. 100-10)

The Committee Secretary submitted a copy of the above-noted report.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the work Monica Goulet, Aboriginal Relations Consultant at the Saskatoon Police Service, has done in this area.

RESOLVED: that the information be received.

11. Open Discussion by Committee Members
(File No. CK. 225-40-10)

Committee members were provided an opportunity to share information regarding activities they are involved with in their workplaces or experiences relating to cultural diversity and anti-racism work.

12. Next Meeting Date
(File No. CK. 225-40)

The Committee Secretary noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on April 10, 2014, at 12:00 noon in Committee Room E, Ground Floor, South Wing, City Hall.

RESOLVED: that the information be received.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Mr. Mike San Miguel, A/Chair