



MINUTES
Diversity & Community Engagement
Advisory Committee
May 25, 2016
River Plate Room, Town Hall
Meeting No. 4

Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:
accessibility@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

Committee Members:	Regional Councillor Colleen Jordan Sobia Ahmad Lee Harrison Stephanie Hoskin Marc-Anthony Neckles Cecil Ramnauth Lina Tabbaa Debra Tiwari
Staff:	Shane Joseph, Diversity & Community Engagement Coordinator Christie McLardie, Manager of Strategic Communications Sarah Moore, Committee Coordinator
Guests:	Jennifer Harrison, Vice-Chair- Accessibility Advisory Committee Barb Dowds, Accessibility Advisory Committee Member
Regrets:	Councillor Renrick Ashby, Preya Singh, Jillian Eddy, Lencil James, Karli Roopchan

1. Call to Order

Chair Ramnauth called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Approval of Minutes

This item was deferred until quorum was met.

Moved By: D. Tiwari
Seconded By: L. Harrison

That the April 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes of the Diversity & Community Engagement Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation/Discussion

4.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee

Jennifer Harrison, AAC Vice-Chair, presented an overview of the AAC mandate, emphasizing its advisory role. She noted that the AAC participates in review of site plans for development, compliance with the AODA, monitoring, reporting and implementation of the multi-year accessibility plan and Provincial Compliance Report. She reviewed recent projects and initiatives of the AAC which included conducting facility audits for accessibility, creation of RespectABILITY training, review of policies and programs such as the Ajax Public Library's inclusive toy library. AAC participation in festivals and events with an information booth was noted.

B. Dowds provided background information on the origin of National Access Awareness Week, noting it was established after Rick Hansen's 1987 Man in Motion tour. She identified the Town's annual recognition of NAAW and provided details of this year's celebration events, including a May 27 film screening of *Infinitely Polar Bear* at the St. Francis Centre, presentations to local Scout groups and the 3rd annual Accessibility Awareness Night. Members were encouraged to attend and help promote to those who may be interested.

S. Joseph entered the meeting (6:30 p.m.)

Members posed questions relative to how the AAC measures its impact. J. Harrison noted that the AAC shared similar challenges with the DACE Committee. She noted personal accounts of accessibility improvements from Members, as well as evaluations and surveys from events as options to measure success. Members posed questions relative to opportunities to work together and whether the AAC takes part in business outreach. Members agreed to brainstorm collaboration opportunities and contact the AAC.

Councillor Jordan entered the meeting and quorum was met; C. McLardie exited. (6:45 p.m.)

Members were encouraged to take part in the AAC's "Accessibility Means..." photo project. Details were also shared relative to the People in Motion Show being held at the Exhibition Place May 27 & 28, 2016. B. Dowds and J. Harrison noted that they would keep Members apprised of the facility audit project observations.

On behalf of the Committee, Chair Ramnauth thanked B. Dowds and J. Harrison for their presentation and requested that the Committee's thanks and support be conveyed back to the AAC.

4.2 DACE Plan Phase 2 & Diversity Conference Update

S. Joseph reported that out of 31 action items within the DACE Plan, 42 have been actioned or completed. A 17 page summary report of accomplishments to date will be circulated. He reviewed the terms of reference and membership of two steering committees:

DACE Phase 2 Steering Committee

- *Shane Joseph*
- *Sarah Moore*
- *Jackie Lumsden*
- *Christian Baudanza-DiTacchio*
- *Cecil Ramnauth*

- *Karli Roopchan*
- *Lencil James*

Diversity Conference Steering Committee

- *Shane Joseph*
- *Cindy Poon*
- *Victoria Schaffer*
- *Amanda Hynes*
- *Jillian Eddy*
- *Stephanie Hoskin*
- *Debra Tiwari*

S. Joseph shared results of the Diversity Conference Survey sent to community groups. He noted that approximately 100 responses were received and the preference for weekday evening vs. weekend was split. The tentative date for the conference is Saturday October 22, 2016 at the Ajax Community Centre.

S. Joseph provided updates relative to several recent meetings and presentations staff took part in, including review of transgender washrooms, equity & inclusion training in the City of Toronto, Municipal Partners Roundtable, as well as several events relating to South Asian Heritage Month. The Committee expressed sensitivity training on the language to use in relation to the transgender population.

4.3 Brainstorming Continuation – Guest Presenters

As follow-up to the April 27, 2016 Committee discussion, Members took part in brainstorming potential guest speakers and discussion topics to invite to the Committee that complement the areas of interest identified for focus. Suggestions included:

- Imam from Islamic Society
- Casey Malvern, Mental Health Advocate
- Homelessness/Poverty
- Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir
- Durham District School Board - bullying/discrimination
- LGBTQ community (PFLAG)
- MP Mark Holland / Minister of Citizenship & Immigration
- First Nations Community
- Municipal Government 101

When inviting presenters, structured format as to questions on how the Town of Ajax could support the presenter/organization will be framed. Staff agreed to review the suggestions and incorporate into the agenda forecast.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Update from Council

As an update to the April 27, 2016 meeting discussion relative to the Ajax hospital, Regional Councillor Jordan informed the Committee that the Minister of Health and Long Term Care had decided to separate the Ajax site from the Rouge Valley Health System. The site will now become part of a Durham Health Corporation.

Councillor Jordan provided an update on the Duffins Creek Water Pollution Control Plant matter. She informed the Committee that the Minister of Environment has ordered the Regions of York and Durham to prepare a Phosphorus Reduction Action Plan (PRAP) over the next nine months for the Duffins Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). She provided a review of Dr. Auer's recent presentation to the General Government Committee.

Councillor Jordan shared details relative to the Town's receipt of a federal government grant for a monument to be installed at Pat Bayly Square recognizing contributions of women war workers.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved By: D. Tiwari
Seconded By: S. Ahmad

That the April 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes of the Diversity & Community Engagement Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

7. Standing Items

7.1 Work Plan

Discussion of this item was covered during Item 4.4.

8. New/Other Business

D. Tiwari extended an invitation for Members to attend the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir on Sunday May 29, 2016 where special guest Durham Regional Police Chief Paul Martin will be in attendance.

S. Ahmad informed the committee that another family of refugees from Syria will be coming to Durham Region in the near future. She noted that donation items are being sought and agreed to forward a list of needs via email in case anyone is interested in donating.

9. Adjournment

Moved By: L. Harrison
Seconded By: M. Neckles

That the May 25, 2016 Meeting of the Diversity & Community Engagement Advisory Committee be adjourned. (7:35 p.m.)

CARRIED