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**1. Call to Order**

1.1. Introduction of Shane Joseph [R. Gruber]

**2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

3.1 June 24, 2015 .....Page 3

**4. Presentation/Discussion Items**

4.1 Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.) ..... [External Link](#)  
Stev Andis, Senior Policy Planner

4.2 Ajax Public Library Accessible Toy Library (7:30 – 7:45 p.m.)  
Cindy Kimber, Branch Services Coordinator – Ajax Public Library

4.3 2015 Federal Election Outreach (7:45 – 8:00 p.m.)  
Donna Mullings, Elections Canada Community Relations Officer

4.4 Pan Am Games Wrap-up (8:00 – 8:15 p.m.)  
Robert Gruber, Manager – Community & Cultural Development

**5. Correspondence**

**6. Update from Council (8:15 – 8:20 p.m.)**

**7. Standing Items**

7.1 Work Plan ..... Page 8

**8. New/Other Business**

**9. Adjournment**

*Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., River Plate Room, Town Hall*



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Diversity & Community Engagement**  
**Advisory Committee**

June 24, 2015  
River Plate Room, Town Hall  
Meeting No. 3

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Committee Members:	Regional Councillor Colleen Jordan Councillor Renrick Ashby Jillian Eddy (exited 8:10 p.m.) Stephanie Hoskin Marc-Anthony Neckles Cecil Ramnauth Preya Singh
Staff:	Cayla Da Silva, Community Development Coordinator David Forget, Quality System and Customer Service Coordinator Sarah Moore, Committee Coordinator
Guests:	Puja Jit, York Social Services Network Evanna Thiruchelvam, York Social Services Network Poonam Jit, York Social Services Network Pandit Rabindranauth (Rudy) Tiwari, Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir and Cultural Centre Philip Navaratne, Cricket Canada
Regrets:	Debra Tiwari, Lee Harrison, Lencil James, Sobia Ahmad

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Ramnauth called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. With consent of all Members present, the Meeting proceeded without quorum.

**2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

None

*Councillor Ashby entered the meeting and quorum was established (6:35 p.m.).*

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved By: P. Singh  
Seconded By: R. Ashby

That the May 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Diversity & Community Engagement Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

#### **4. Presentation/Discussion**

##### **4.1 Social Services Network: Building a Safe Community for South Asians**

Puja Jit, Evanna Thiruchelvam and Poonam Jit, York Social Services Network, noted their organization works to bring awareness to violence against women, specifically focusing on the South Asian community. Their programs are sponsored by the Ontario Women's Directorate and through other provincial grants. The presentation was introduced with a brief video on elder abuse, after which Members were encouraged to name the types of abuse they witnessed.

Conversation was initiated as to why it is difficult to intervene in cases of cultural elder abuse. Reasons included differences in family composition (extended v. nuclear), roles and expectations, religion, marriage customs and more. The ladies from York Social Services Network identified warning signs for abuse and acknowledged that the brochures circulated to the Committee contained valuable resources for service providers and community members.

Barriers to accessing support in abusive situations were noted to include limited ability to communicate (language barriers), lack of programs needed, mistrust towards or poor treatment from police or other positions of authority, lack of understanding of how social services/government systems work, and limited job opportunities. It was noted that community members often do not seek help because of stigma associated with abuse, social isolation and lack of knowledge that support exists.

York Social Services Network identified positive changes being made through greater cultural understanding in the health, social services and law enforcement sectors. It was noted that faith centres are often the first point of contact for those in abusive situations seeking help, as they do not know where to turn. Additional work to facilitate dialogue with schools and improve outreach resources was noted. The importance of connecting with faith groups and cultural centres to spread awareness is key.

Examples of other support programs including "Chai & Chat" sharing circles, social media campaigns, workshop delivery and development of outreach materials were noted to be assisting with awareness of community support.

The presentation concluded with tips on how one can interact with someone who is thought to be in an abusive situation and the sharing of the [Join the Breakthrough Generation video](#) which spoke to violence against women.

Members were encouraged to review the information package distributed, which contained information on cultural etiquette in the South Asian Community and a quiz.

The Committee posed questions to the presenters relative to their resource distribution. The pamphlets circulated were noted to be distributed throughout York and Durham Region and are available in multiple South Asian languages. Members inquired about statistics of violence against cultural women in Durham and Ajax. While York Social Services Network did not have specific statistics to share they noted the high population of South Asian women in Ajax is cause for increased awareness and communication about available supports.

*As the presenter for **Item 4.2 Strengthening Diversity through the Sport of Cricket** had not yet arrived, Members consented to continuing the agenda.*

#### **4.3 Ganesh Immersion Ceremony**

Pandit Rabindranauth (Rudy) Tiwari of the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir and Cultural Centre, introduced the symbolism of Lord Ganesha, the Hindu God of wisdom, knowledge and new beginnings. The celebration of Ganesh's birthday (Ganesh Chaturthi) is a public event. Originally, under British rule, no Hindu public gatherings were permitted. In order to bridge the gap between cultures and build unity, a festival was created to facilitate community participation and cultural awareness. The Ganesh Immersion ceremony as it is known today is comprised of a replica of Ganesh made by a community members out of 100% biodegradable clay. The clay is used to symbolize the nature of beings of the universe. The Murti (clay Ganesh offering) is carried by four adults into a body of water to a safe depth while special prayers are chanted. The Murti is immersed in water and dissolves, representing the dissolving of obstacles, problems and negative thoughts.

In 2014, the Town of Ajax partnered with the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir on the Ganesh Immersion Ceremony at the Ajax waterfront. The event maintains the historic cultural practice and creates awareness while breaking down cultural barriers. P. Tiwari invited the Committee, Members' family and friends to take part in the 2015 ceremony to be held on September 20, 2015. He shared a slide show of the 2014 event, which included images of the offering, altar and immersion.

Members inquired where the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir temple is located and where the congregation is drawn from. Questions were also posed relative to the types of services offered by at the temple. P. Tiwari acknowledged that everyone is welcome at the temple. Chair Ramnauth inquired how the Committee could help the temple's efforts. P. Tiwari encouraged Members to visit the temple and attend events to help share positive awareness.

#### **4.4 Pride Parade Update**

David Forget summarized the Town's participation in the 2015 Durham Region Pride Parade. He acknowledged that the Town of Ajax was again, the only municipality to take part in the parade. The Town provided the largest float and approximately 10-12 people took part. The event was held in Oshawa on June 7, 2015.

Members posed questions relative to how long the parade had been coordinated and why there isn't participation from other municipalities. Members discussed interest in determining how the parade could possibly be moved to the Town of Ajax in the future.

Moved By: S. Hoskin  
Seconded By: J. Eddy

That the Town of Ajax approach the Durham Pride Committee to inquire about the opportunity to host the 2016 Pride Parade in the Town of Ajax.

CARRIED

## 5. Correspondence

S. Moore circulated information prepared by Chair Ramnauth on the celebration of Ramadan. Members were encouraged to share information about significant days of celebration at the monthly Meetings.

## 6. Update from Council

Regional Councillor Jordan updated the Committee on recent Council business, including her attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference and the submission of an application for funding the Bomb Girls memorial. Councillor Ashby reminded the Committee of several forthcoming community events including Durham Caribbean Festival, Pickering Village JAMFest and the July 1, 2015 Canada Day Celebrations at Ajax Downs. Both councilors spoke about traffic, parking and security for the Pan Am Games and encouraged Members to visit [www.panamajax.ca](http://www.panamajax.ca) to keep apprised of updates.

Members inquired why they had not heard details of the Durham Caribbean Festival and volunteer opportunities. Staff advised that the Town is not an official partner for the event. Councillor Ashby noted that those interested in volunteer information can contact him directly for more details.

### 4.2 Strengthening Diversity through the Sport of Cricket

Philip Navaratne, Cricket Canada, presented the history of Cricket, a sport originating in Britain during the 16<sup>th</sup> century which was later introduced to commonwealth countries. He noted that cricket is the second most-watched sport in the world. P. Navaratne identified the various cricket leagues, including the Indian Premier League and T20 League. Canada was noted to be a member of the International Cricket Council and has played in three world cup tournaments.

Ajax Cricket Club was identified as one of the oldest clubs in Canada. It is significant to the community diversity as it offers something familiar to new immigrants. Many internationally recognized cricketers live in Ajax. P. Navaratne discussed the types of cricket played in Ajax and provided an overview of the cricket programs offered by the Town. Cricket was noted as a sport for all that captivates and inspires people of all ages, cultures and abilities. The Ajax Cricket Club membership is comprised of multiple ethnicities including members from Canada, Britain, West Indies, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Australia, Guyana, Sri Lanka and more.

*J. Eddy exited the meeting (8:10 p.m.)*

P. Navaratne concluded his presentation by encouraging members to try playing cricket if they have not already, as it is a sport for all Ajax residents and Canadians.

Members posed question relative to the type of equipment needed to play and whether there are any cost barriers associated with participation. P. Navaratne noted that bats and balls are provided, while helmets, gloves and pads are the players' responsibility. However, for

someone new to cricket or someone trying it out, the Durham Cricket Academy has equipment available for loan.

Chair Ramnauth thanked P. Navaratne for his presentation and promoting the awareness of the diversity cricket brings to Ajax and beyond.

## **7. Standing Items**

### **7.1 Work Plan**

D. Forget noted that the Work Plan had been updated to reflect additional items scheduled into the fall of 2015.

### **7.2 Pan Am 2015 Local Host Committee Update**

June 16, 2015 was identified as the last meeting of the Pan Am Local Host Committee. A summary of event details was shared, including the success of the June 6, 2015 Torch Relay event and forthcoming Canada Day Celebration at the Ajax Downs, which will include an evening Pan Am-azement firework and entertainment spectacular. Volunteer recruitment has now closed with volunteers to take on their first shifts as of July 11, 2015.

## **8. New Business**

Chair Ramnauth discussed interest in the Committee being involved in the planning and coordination in a Diversity Festival or Conference, as identified in the Diversity & Community Engagement Plan. He noted that discussion on the initiative will wait until the Town's Diversity & Community Engagement Coordinator position has been filled.

Members were reminded that Pan Am/Parapan Am Game's tickets are still available for purchase.

Prior to adjournment for the summer recess, Chair Ramnauth wished the Committee a safe and happy summer.

## **9. Adjournment**

Moved By: M. Neckles  
Seconded By: P. Singh

That the June 24, 2015 Meeting of the Diversity & Community Engagement Advisory Committee be adjourned. (8:30 p.m.)

**CARRIED**

**DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2014-2018 WORK PLAN**

PROJECT ITEM		OBJECTIVES & SUMMARY	LEAD	TIMELINE	STATUS / NOTES
1	<b>Advisory Committee training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orientation session</li> <li>- Chairs workshop / meet and greet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To familiarize new DACE members with purpose, mandate, etc</li> </ul>	LIS	February 18, 2015	Complete
2	<b>Review of the New Resident Guide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide an overview of the new Guide, it's purpose and contents</li> </ul>	David Forget	April 22, 2015	Complete
3	<b>Review of the Durham Immigration Portal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To familiarize the committee with the web portal and the work of the LDIPC</li> </ul>	David	April 22, 2015	Complete
4	<b>Review of annual partnership events hosted by Recreation and Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide information about ongoing annual events hosted by Recreation</li> </ul>	Cayla S. Da Silva	Ongoing	
5	<b>Present and review formal DACE Implementation Plan – next phase</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide an overview of what has been accomplished in the past five years and what lies ahead</li> </ul>	Tracey Vaughan	April 22, 2015	Complete
6	<b>Community Information Sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide the Committee with insight on what's happening in the community (faith-based groups, etc.)</li> </ul>	David Forget Cayla Da Silva	Ongoing	
7	<b>Volunteer Recognition Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To involve DACE members in the selection and review committee</li> </ul>	Cayla S. Da Silva	March 25, 2015	



## DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### 2014-2018 WORK PLAN

8	<b>Strong Neighbourhood Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide ongoing consultation and updates</li> </ul>	Cayla S. Da Silva	Ongoing	
9	<b>Designate a prominent space as a Centre for Understanding (Pat Bayly Square)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide ongoing updates on the progress of the Square</li> </ul>	Tracey Vaughan	Ongoing	
10	<b>Continue to utilize differing communication vehicles to reach diverse groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes engagement in civic opportunities (diverse media services)</li> </ul>	Christie McLardie	September 2015	
11	<b>Self Disclosure Form (Taleo Recruitment Software)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate the Committee on the new recruitment software</li> </ul>	Jackie Lumsden	Spring 2016	
12	<b>Pan Am Initiative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates to the Committee about Pan Am events</li> </ul>	Tracey Vaughan	May 2015	Completed
13	<b>IMPACT Ajax Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a better understanding of the Social Infrastructure funding</li> </ul>	Cayla S. Da Silva	October 2015	
14	<b>National Access Awareness Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For information</li> </ul>	Accessibility Ad. Comm.	May 27, 2015	Completed
15	<b>Seniors Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An analysis of best practices to serve the older adult population</li> </ul>	Robbie Prochilo	Fall 2015	
16	<b>Age-Friendly Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO strategy to respect elders in our community (designation)</li> </ul>	Robbie Prochilo	Fall 2015	

**DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2014-2018 WORK PLAN**

17	Diversity Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To bring groups, associations and interested parties together to discuss diversity issues</li> </ul>	Cayla S. Da Silva David Forget	October 2015	
18	Explore Ajax Newcomer Bus Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create awareness of bus tours offered by the Town to newcomers (in partnership with CDCD)</li> </ul>	Cayla S. Da Silva	April 22, 2015	Completed
19	Healthy Kids Community Challenge (HKCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement strategy to improve health of kids</li> <li>Based on three pillars, physical activity, nutrition and sleep/healthy lifestyle</li> </ul>	Kevin Smith	Ongoing (4 year pilot program)	Waiting direction from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
20	Positive Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff training, build collection for appropriate clientele</li> </ul>	Cindy Poon	November 2015	
21	Library as an Inclusive Place - Toy Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of toys (safe and educational) for individualized needs patrons</li> </ul>	Cindy Poon	September 2015	
22	Outreach to Faith Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote library services and collections and explore potential opportunities for partnerships</li> </ul>	Cindy Poon	October 2015	
23	Outcome Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek feedback from community members and agencies about library's programs and services</li> </ul>	Cindy Poon	November 2015	

June 18, 2015