



Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: June 21, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Present:

Erden Ertorer, Elizabeth Grimmond, Marla Terreberry-Portfilio, Melissa Gray, Nkiru Nwagbo, Sheila Deluca, Falyynn Shaw, Wayne Campbell (Council Rep), Jay MacLean (Staff)

Regrets:

Celeste Turner, Matthew Aiello

Meeting Minutes

1. Review and approval of May 2021 Minutes

- A Motion from Marla Terreberry-Portfilio and seconded by Sheila Deluca to approve the May 2021 Minutes. **Motion CARRIED**

2. Acknowledgement of Recent Tragic Events

- The committee wanted to acknowledge the recent tragic events, which included the 215 children buried at the former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia as well as the hate crime attack on a Muslim family from the City of London, Ontario.
- Councillor Lococo suggested it would be helpful if the City had a formal protocol or guideline to acknowledge such tragic events. This matter will be discussed at the next City Council meeting (June 22, 2021).

3. Dedicated Section for Committee on City Website

- The committee discussed the idea of having dedicated space on the City's website. This section would assist the committee in promoting certain initiatives, special events as well as hosting forums and other initiatives. Staff will work with the City's I.T. Department to establish this dedicated space and begin to add information as required.

4. Committee Profile and Priorities

- The committee discussed ideas on how to promote and profile the committee throughout the City. Councillor Campbell advised he will reach out to Cogeco TV and see if they will showcase the committee.
- The committee also discussed the need to begin identifying their strategic priorities for 2021 and 2022 and creating a work plan to highlight these priorities.
- It was suggested the Committee reach out to Mr. AJ Heavy as he specializes in Community Outreach and maybe able to assist the committee in identifying high-risk groups in the City of Niagara Falls. Staff will follow-up with Mr. Heavy.

- A motion from Sheila Deluca and seconded by Elizabeth Grimmond to conduct an inventory of all the community partners including the at risk groups and invite them to make a presentation to the committee on their organization.

Motion CARRIED

5. Conferences and Workshops

- The committee discussed the idea of potentially hosting a workshop or conference on Diversity and Inclusion. The event would be an opportunity for members of the public to get to know all the various agencies and associations who are doing work in this field.
- Prior to coordinating such an event, the committee felt it might be helpful to learn more about the various agencies and associations in Niagara who are doing work in the area of Diversity and Inclusion.

6. Indigenous Representation for the D&I Committee

- The committee inquired on whether or not any candidates from the Indigenous Community applied to be on the City's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Staff advised there was one candidate who provided that demographic information on their application, and that candidate is a member of the committee.
- The committee also discussed the idea of reaching out to local Indigenous Groups to see if they would present to our committee.
- Staff advised the Regional Diversity and Inclusion Committee has done some work and collaboration with local Indigenous groups. Staff will invite the Regional staff member to attend a meeting and present to this Committee.

7. OUTniagara Survey Project Update

- The Committee was updated on a project the Out in Niagara Advisory Committee is presently working on in the community.
- In summary, [Using an anti-racism and anti-oppression approach, the mandate of the committee is to guide and make evidence-based recommendations about the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment being carried out for the *Informed, Inclusive, Indivisible: Collectively Advancing 2SLGBTQ+ Equality in Niagara+* project].
- Once the project and survey is complete, Committee Member (Melissa Gray), will provide the results to the entire committee.

8. Meeting Adjourned

- A motion from Sheila Deluca and seconded by Falynn Shaw to adjourn the meeting.

Motion CARRIED

Next Meeting
July 19, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams