



Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: August 23, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Present:

Erden Ertorer, Elizabeth Grimmond, Nkiru Nwagbo, Falyynn Shaw, Sheila Deluca, Celeste Turner, Matthew Aiello, Councillor Lori Lococo, Jay MacLean (Staff)

Present:

Karl Dockstader (Niagara Regional Native Centre)

Regrets:

Melissa Gray, Marla Terreberry-Portfilio, Councillor Wayne Campbell

Meeting Minutes

1. Land Acknowledgement

- Melissa Gray prepared the committee's first Land Acknowledgement which was read out by Vice Chair (Sheila DeLuca).

2. Guest Speaker (Mr. Karl Dockstader), Executive Director at Niagara Regional Native Centre

- Provided overview of work he does at the Niagara Regional Native Centre.
- Discussed the inequities of Indigenous people in Niagara Falls.
- In the City of St Catharines, they established a memorandum of understanding to find ways to work with the Niagara Regional Native Centre. This was established shortly after the report came out on Truth and Reconciliation (approximately 2016).
- Is in agreement with the City of Niagara Falls in having two (2) separate committees to address Diversity and Inclusion and Anti-Racism.
- According to 2016 Census, there are approximately 2200 Indigenous people living in Niagara. This number may go down in next Census as a result of the increase cost of living in Niagara.
- Talked of the historical significance of Niagara Falls and First Nations People dating back to the Treaty of Niagara in 1764 and the Royal Proclamation in 1763.
- Encouraged the committee to engage more Indigenous people in the work of the committee and diversity and inclusion, and encouraged the committee to find ways to acknowledge the great history and contributions Indigenous people have made in Niagara.

3. Review and Approval of July 2021 Minutes

- A Motion from Sheila Deluca and seconded by Celeste Turner to approve the July 2021 Minutes.

Motion CARRIED

4. September 30 National Truth and Reconciliation Day

- The Committee discussed some ideas to recognize this very important day.
- A motion from Sheila DeLuca and seconded by Matthew Aiello to formally recommend the following to Council on September 14, 2021:
 - a) Create Education and Awareness to all staff and on the City website / Social Media
 - b) That the City lower all Flags at half-mast on September 30th
 - c) That Council encourage all staff to wear Orange on September 30th.

Motion CARRIED

5. Vision Statement

- Vice Chair (Sheila DeLuca) presented a draft of the working Vision Statement and opened up discussion to the committee on suggested edits/revisions.
- The committee will work on condensing the Vision Statement and presenting it at the September 2021 meeting.

6. D&I Committee Work Plan

- Committee Chair (Nkiru Nwagbo), presented the committee with an updated version of the Work Plan.
- Committee Chair also provided the committee with a review of the 2016 Census Data related to Diversity and Inclusion.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Special Guest Speakers

- Invite Gateway of Niagara to speak at the September 2021 meeting.

b) Committee would like to be invited to official city events that are related to Diversity and Inclusion.

c) Regional Community Partners List

- The committee chair requested staff to recirculate the Regional Community Partners List so the committee can review and determine which groups can be invited to present to the Committee. It was suggested that perhaps a sub-committee of 3 people could work on reviewing this list and identifying groups to present to the committee. This can be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

d) Rainbow Crosswalk (Lundy's Lane)

- A motion from Sheila DeLuca and seconded by Falyynn Shaw to have the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee support the recommendation to create a 2nd Rainbow Crosswalk at the intersection of Lundy's Lane near Stamford High School.

Motion CARRIED

e) Meeting Adjourned

- A motion from Nkiru Nwagbo and seconded by Sheila DeLuca to adjourn the meeting.

Motion CARRIED

NEXT MEETING
September 20, 2021

6:00 p.m.Virtual (ZOOM)