



Minutes
PICKERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON RACE RELATIONS & EQUITY

June 7, 2007

7:20 pm

Main Committee Room

Attendees: Fred Gibson, Pickering Carib Canadian Cultural Association
 Cathy Grant, Pickering Public Library
 Philip Howard, Durham District School Board
 Adrian Rampersad, Dunbarton High School
 Ansar Siddiqui, Pine Ridge Secondary School
 Sharon Singh, Pine Ridge Secondary School
 Siobhan Saravanamuttu, Dunbarton High School
 Marisa Carpino, City of Pickering
 Linda Roberts, Recording Secretary

Guests: Elizabeth Grane, Spanish Alliance of Ontario
 Lucila King, Hispanic Canadian Alliance of Ontario
 Ramesh Rajasingham, Durham Tamil Association
 Sherini Ramuite, Dunbarton High School

Regrets: Councillor David Pickles – Chair
 Tanya Malika Foster, Community Appointee
 Mariyah Gonzales, Dunbarton High School
 Sethu Madhavan, Community Appointee
 Kirk Mark, Community Appointee
 Joanne Guindon, Durham District Catholic School Board
 Margaret Lazarus, Valley Farm Public School

Item / Ref #	Details & Discussion & Conclusion <i>(summary of discussion)</i>	Action Items / Status <i>(include deadline as appropriate)</i>
1.	Welcome & Introductions	
	Marisa welcomed members and guests and introductions were made around the table. She informed the committee she would be Chairing the meeting in the absence of Councillor Pickles.	
2.	Review & Approval of Agenda	
	Marisa went over the agenda items. She informed the Committee that we would assign a deadline date for the workplan and finalize the community survey tonight.	

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3.	Approval of Minutes & Business Arising	
	Marisa reviewed the action items from the previous meeting. As Mariyah was unable to attend this evening, the photos from the Annual Cultural Show will be available at the next meeting.	
4.	Annual Workplan	
	<p>Marisa handed out copies of the workplan to the members, explaining the need to finalize this. She went over each item explaining the Committees commitment and indicated those items which had been completed up to this point. She noted upcoming events and questioned whether we were missing any items. Other suggestions for celebrations which could be considered in the Multi-Faith Celebration were:</p> <p>Ayyam-Aha, Diwali and Chinese New Year.</p> <p>It was suggested we also include banners that commemorate other ethno-cultural celebrations that take place in November/December.</p> <p>It was noted the Committee would like to get a youth website up and running.</p> <p>It was also suggested that we include other diversity and equity initiatives led by the Pickering Public Library.</p> <p>Cathy Grant, Pickering Public Library, discussed what was available in children's programs at the Library.</p> <p>Marisa asked that comments regarding the Work Plan be provided to her by June 28th, at which time the final changes will be made in order to complete this.</p> <p><u>Community Survey</u></p> <p>Marisa indicated no comments had been received to date. She noted that this was to be piloted in 2007. She asked if there were any omissions in the documents, or any inclusions to be made? Marisa indicated this would be discussed later in the meeting and she would be looking for feedback.</p> <p>It was suggested we allow other members to comment via</p>	

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	<p>email</p> <p>Marisa indicated the need for the workplan to go to Council</p>	
5.	Student Writing Contest	
	<p>Launch in September Marisa indicated that the photos had been emailed to Philip Howard to be posted on line Philip noted the Durham Digest newsletter is available on the public website.</p> <p>More teacher involvement The winners were posted as well as other entries. This should provide greater exposure to the schools</p> <p>Need to put together for September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have posters ready in early September – agreed the format was fine • Send a hard copy as well as in PDF format to Philip early in September for him to forward to all schools • Conduct outreach – was agreed it would be good to do a courtesy visit to schools • Emails could go out one month prior to deadline • Change deadline to December • To determine what a statement could be, should focus on issues of diversity and race relations <p>Discussion ensued on how to begin essay. Further discussion respecting this was tabled, to confirm in September. Philip noted he would be back in the office in late August.</p>	<p>Philip to provide link to Marisa</p> <p>Philip to circulate to teachers</p> <p>Committee to think about suggestions for statement</p>
6.	Canadian Tapestry Event	
	<p>Marisa reminded everyone we are a partner in this event which is happening on June 9th from 12 – 4:30 pm. She explained other organizations are involved with this event as well, and went over the program for the day, welcoming everyone to attend. She provided a draft of the program which will be distributed at the event. Discussion ensued on the types of events happening throughout the day.</p>	

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	<p><u>Community Survey:</u></p> <p>Marisa went over the details of the survey line by line and stated she wanted this survey to go out tomorrow. She requested comments and discussion ensued with various changes being made to the survey. Marisa made note of the changes and will send out the survey once the changes have been made.</p> <p>Survey is to go electronically first, followed by a mailing with a covering letter.</p> <p>Will pilot this survey with five organizations to begin with.</p>	<p>Marisa to make changes and forward to organizations</p>
7.	Adjournment	
	<p>Adjournment: 8:35 pm</p> <p>Next Meeting – September 6, 2007</p>	