



Minutes
PICKERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON RACE RELATIONS & EQUITY

November 1, 2007
 7:00 pm
 Main Committee Room

Attendees: Marisa Carpino, City of Pickering, Co-Chair
 Sethu Madhavan, Community Appointee
 Kirk Mark, Community Appointee
 Cathy Grant, Pickering Public Library
 Philip Howard, Durham District School Board
 Fred Gibson, Pickering Carib Canadian Cultural Association
 Mariyah Gonzales, Dunbarton High School
 Margaret Lazarus, Valley Farm Public School
 Siobhan Saravanamutto, Dunbarton High School
 Sharon Singh, Pine Ridge Secondary School
 Marcia Dixon, Pickering Resident
 Linda Roberts (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Councillor David Pickles, Chair
 Tanya Malika Foster, Community Appointee
 Adrian Rampersad, Dunbarton High School
 Joanne Guindon, Durham Catholic District School Board
 Ansar Siddiqui, Pine Ridge Secondary School

<i>Item / Ref #</i>	Details & Discussion & Conclusion <i>(summary of discussion)</i>	Action Items / Status <i>(include deadline as appropriate)</i>
1.0	Welcome	
	Marisa welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table	
2.0	Review & Approval of Agenda	All
	Agenda approved	
3.0	Approval of Business and Minutes	All
	Marisa went through the action items from the previous meeting. Philip confirmed that everything was fine with the photos and info for the contest and that the information had been forwarded on to the internal magazine.	

	<p>Discussion ensued on how to present the annual report. Linda advised the Committee that it could be done as a written report, or a formal presentation. A formal presentation would be done as a delegation to Council with a maximum of ten minutes allowed. The timeframe for this would be anytime between January and March of 2008. The Committee recommended that we do a written report as well as a formal presentation.</p> <p>Siobhan and Mariyah will bring ideas for youth website to the December meeting.</p> <p>Minutes of the October 4th, 2007 meeting of Race Relations were approved.</p>	
4.0	2008 Heritage Day Event - update	Marisa Carpino
	<p>Marisa provided an update on the Heritage Day Event for 2008. The location is the Pickering Town Centre and they may be undergoing some reconstruction which will include the centre court area. She indicated they will not confirm a timetable on the construction until December. Discussion ensued with respect to the event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we defer for one year • Space is always a challenge, there are not a lot of options, mall provides traffic • This event is established, has been held for many years, may be OK to defer for one year • Possibly concentrate efforts into the March Break programs and introduce in place of this for next year. • Another suitable location could come up • Deal with changes when they happen 	<p>Marisa to let us know in December if venue is Ok</p>
5.0	March Break Diversity Program for Kids - update	Tanya Foster
	As Tanya Foster was unavailable for an	Cathy, Mariyah and

	<p>update, Cathy suggested meeting with Mariyah and Siobhan to discuss programs. Discussion ensued with respect to Harmony Links. Cathy provided background information on the 8 week program and briefly outlined what the organization does. Siobhan mentioned they are running this program at their school. It was suggested the Committee could take ideas from this and incorporate them into their own program. It was suggested we could possibly have the students who have taken part in this program come out and provide assistance during the March Break programs. The Committee could use Harmony Links as a point of reference, develop from this and be youth driven.</p> <p>The Star program was also mentioned. This involves grades 7 – 10 at no cost.</p> <p>The program developed by the Committee would run at the Library. The length of time is dependent on the program.</p>	Siobhan to meet and provide an update at the next meeting
6.0	Student Writing Contest - update	Marisa Carpino
	<p>Marisa provided an update on the student writing contest. She reported everything is going well. It was questioned whether French submissions could be judged, and how many. Philip advised there are several French immersion schools which could be interested. Does the judging team have the capacity to judge large numbers of entries.</p> <p>It was suggested splitting the judging into age categories.</p> <p>Members asked if any members of the Committee would be attending an area meeting at the schools to promote the contest. Marisa confirmed that Councillor Pickles had asked for the list again to do follow up calls to the schools.</p>	Marisa to confirm how many French entries could be judged and will email Philip
7.0	Other Business	All

	<p>Siobhan informed the Committee that Forest Brook Community Church in Ajax held a multi-faith discussion with representatives from various cultural groups in attendance. Each speaker was given 20 minutes to speak . The turnout was very good.</p> <p>Mariyah and Siobhan asked if they could get more youth involved with the Race Relations Committee. They could provide more support with the March break programs. Siobhan indicated a lot of potential at her school as well as others.</p> <p>Discussed a Youth Booth for Heritage Day. Sub committee to work on this, possibly hold meetings here in the Main Committee Room.</p>	<p>Marisa endorsed and will confer with Councillor Pickles</p>
8.0	Adjournment	All
	<p>8:00 pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Main Committee Room</p>	

Copy: City Clerk