



Minutes
Pickering Advisory Committee
On Race Relations & Equity
 January 8, 2009
 7:00 PM
 Tower Room

Attendees: Raymond George Facey, Community Appointee
 Steve Holt, Community Appointee
 Sethu Madhavan, Community Appointee
 Kirk Mark, Community Appointee
 Devinder Kaur Panesar, Community Appointee
 Tiera Dookhie, J. Clarke Richardson School
 Becky George, Pickering Public Library
 Emily Honsberger, Dunbarton High School
 Marisa Carpino, City of Pickering
 Linda Roberts, Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor David Pickles, Chair
 Margaret Lazarus, Valley Farm Public School
 Brandyn Mascal, St. Mary Catholic School
 Sylvie Morel-Foster, Durham Catholic District School Board
 Fred Gibson, Pickering Carib Canadian Cultural Association
 Philip Howard, Durham District School Board

<i>Item / Ref #</i>	Details & Discussion & Conclusion <i>(summary of discussion)</i>	Action Items / Status <i>(include deadline as appropriate)</i>
1.0	Welcome	All
	Marisa welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table, as we welcomed our three new members to the Committee.	
2.0	Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes	All
	<p>Marisa reviewed the action items from the December 4th, 2008 minutes and provided an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to coordinate the attendance of delegations from the Multi-Faith organizations for the December 15th Council meeting. • Emily will provide information on the Diversity Camp for 2009 at our next meeting, as they will be meeting on Monday • Holiday Celebrations Update – hope to have multi-faith organizations respond to survey, invite them out to meetings and provide information for our cultural calendar 	

- Booths will be set up at various locations throughout the mall – let Marisa know if you have any suggestions
- [YOU]nity noted they would like to have a booth this year
- It was suggested we avoid any loud bands due to our location in the food court this year
- Deadline for booking performers is early next week (January 12th)
- Welcoming remarks will take place at 1:30 pm with Councillor Pickles introducing various government dignitaries in attendance at that time. (Mayor, Councillors)

Marisa noted that she would like to know who will be attending to help with the booths that day, and what time they would be available. Confirmed at this meeting:

Kirk Mark – available after 1:00 pm

Raymond Facey – available from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Marisa explained how promotion for this event is done, through the News Advertiser, media release, website, electronic boards. She noted that the media is always in attendance the day of the event.

Suggestion was made for possibly appearing on the local cable show for promotion purposes as well.

Race Relations Forum on March 25, 2009

The Race Relations Forum is scheduled for March 25. This was launched in September with a creative arts component included this year. This year's statement is "Imagining our Diverse Community where we are all treated with dignity, fairness and respect..." Marisa provided an explanation of the judging process. Judges will be Mark Holland, MP, Mike Johnstone, News Advertiser and Cynthia Mearns, CEO Pickering Public Library for the written submissions. Members from the PineRidge Arts Council will be judging the creative arts submissions. The judging will take place in mid-January and the winning entries will be on view in the lobby at the Pickering Civic Complex. Invitations will go out in early February.

Guest speakers were discussed with the following suggestions being made:

Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne

Dorsey James – Pickering resident and member of PineRidge Arts Council

Dr. Jean Augustine – Minister for the Status of Women & Multiculturalism

Alvin Curling – Canada's ambassador to the Dominican Republic

Marisa noted she will provide this information to Councillor Pickles.

Kirk Mark noted that he would like to see work from the previous years

Marisa will email Emily a description of the event

Marisa to forward suggestions to Councillor Pickles

	<p>compiled into book form for publication. Steve Holt noted this would enable students to qualify for potential grants, if they have had their work published.</p> <p>All members of the Committee were encouraged to attend this event.</p>	
4.0	2009 Annual Work Plan	
	<p>Marisa requested the Committee give some thought to what initiatives we would like to see completed for 2009. A brief overview of our 2008 accomplishments took place.</p> <p>Emily will put the coffee shop on her next agenda for discussion. She noted she has already started to foster other students to take over as current student [YOU]nity members prepare for university.</p> <p>Suggestions for our 2009 work plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at Council from multi-faith organizations in December 2009 • Booth at Library for various cultural celebrations in 2009 • Outreach – supporting the work of other cultural organizations by encouraging Committee members to attend their functions – any invitations received by the Committee go out to all Race Relations members • Establish a meeting between PAC4-Teens and [YOU]nity – to enable the members from each group to know each other and the mandate of their groups • Cultural holidays – hope to expand on this component – ways to promote and develop strategy • Town Hall symposium on current conditions of Race Relations and Diversity – have a panel and moderator to take questions from the audience • Order name tags for Committee members • Continue recruitment of student representatives from all high schools <p>Marisa noted we hope to get a better response from the community survey when we do another one in March.</p> <p>Any further suggestions for the 2009 work plan will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Place on February agenda</p>
5.0	Other Business	
	<p>5.1) Schools – it was questioned whether anything was happening with respect to Asian Heritage Month in the schools. Emily noted there is a cultural show at Dunbarton High School, but was not sure of the date.</p>	

