



Minutes / Meeting Summary
Pickering Advisory Committee on Race Relations & Equity

Thursday, May 7, 2009

7:00 pm

Main Committee Meeting Room

Attendees: Councillor David Pickles, Chair
 Sethu Madhavan, Community Appointee
 Kirk Mark, Community Appointee
 Steve Holt, Community Appointee
 Tiera Dookhie, J. Clarke Richardson School
 Margaret Lazarus, Valley Farm Public School

Absent: Devinder Panesar, Community Appointee
 Raymond Facey, Community Appointee
 Emily Honsberger, Dunbarton High School
 Becky George, Pickering Public Library
 Philip Howard, Durham District School Board
 Sylvie Morel-Foster, Durham Catholic District School Board

Item / Ref #	Details & Discussion & Conclusion <i>(summary of discussion)</i>	Action Items / Status <i>(include deadline as appropriate)</i>
1.	Welcome	
	Councillor Pickles welcomed attendees and introductions were made.	
2.	Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes	
	M. Carpino reviewed action items of the April 2/09 minutes. Councillor Pickles asked M. Carpino to send a letter with event photo to special guests that attended the 2009 Race Relations Forum. Agenda for the May 7, 2009 meeting was approved with two items added under Other Business. Kirk Mark requested that the Ontario's new Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy be added. Councillor Pickles requested that the Winning Entries Booklet also be added.	M. Carpino to action
3.	Community Survey	
	M. Carpino reviewed the revised Community Survey and highlighted the recommended changes from the previous meeting. Further changes were noted and will be made by M. Carpino.	

	M. Carpino will compile a list of 10 Pickering based cultural organizations and email to committee members for review and comment. Once confirmed, M. Carpino will send out the Community Survey to the 10 Pickering based cultural organizations in June 30/09 with a deadline to respond of July 30/09.	M. Carpino to action.
4.	[YOU]nity	
	[YOU]nity will have another meeting before the end of the school year to wrap things up. At that meeting, they will confirm the new youth committee reps. that will attend the September 2009 committee meeting. T. Dookhie asked for funds for [YOU]nity's last get together. Councillor Pickles and M. Carpino advised that money could be provided for Pizza and Drinks at their final meeting.	T. Dookhie to provide names and contact information to M. Carpino T. Dookhie to coordinate with M. Carpino
5.	Review	
	M. Lazarus and T. Dookhie provided the committee with an overview of the Council Presentation (of the committee's 2008 annual report) they conducted in April 2009. M. Lazarus and T. Dookhie met before hand and split up the information and spoke to their sections. The presentation went very well and took the full 10 minutes. Councillor Pickles thanked M. Lazaurus and T. Dookhie for their participation in the presentation. Job Well Done!	
6.	Other Business	
	K. Mark advised that, in April 2009, Ontario's Minister of Education launched Ontario's new Equity & Inclusive Education Strategy. The document can be found at www.edu.gov.on.ca . The strategy is to look at the principals of equity and reducing the gaps in student achievement. The plan of action commences September 2009 and includes 8 areas of focus. The strategies include all areas from employment practices, equity policies & curriculum development. This new strategy will help the committee when delivering our programs particularly the In Your Word & Expressions Contest. C. Pickles advised that he would like to look into binding the winning entries of the In Your Word & Expressions Contest. S. Holt recommended that we produce an e book. K. Mark indicated that schools would still like a hard copy. M. Carpino to investigate the possibility of creating an e book and printing a cerlox bound copy.	M. Carpino to action

	<p>One hard copy would be provided to every school in the Durham region. The inside cover of the book will include the names of all schools that have participated in the contest to date.</p> <p>C. Pickles asked M. Carpino to check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. if he can see sponsors to public the books b. if schools will accept books with sponsors listed (perhaps certain sponsors are restricted). <p>S. Madhavan asked if the committee will be replacing the Tapestry Event with a Cultural Festival in the City's downtown area this year. The committee would like to consider this type of activity, parade followed by festival, in 2010. Committee will discuss location, activities and cost this year to begin the process. This could be a good activity to start in 2010 and role into Pickering's Bi-Centennial in 2011.</p>	<p>M. Carpino to check with Debi Wilcox M. Carpino to check with school board reps.</p>
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Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 pm

Copy: City Clerk