

COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 6, 2005

NOTES

PRESENT: Ms. Betty Thomas, Chair
Ms. Sylvia Parris
Ms. Susanne Wise
Mr. Thomas Rissesco
Mr. Wilf McEachern

ABSENT: Mr. Shawn Lahey, Vice Chair (regrets)
Ms. Gail Wilson (regrets)
Councillor Debbie Hum (regrets)
Ms. May Lui (regrets)
Mr. David Khokar (regrets)
Mr. Larry Guptil
Councillor Hendsbee
Mr. Juan Carlos Canales-Leyton

STAFF: Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Charla Williams, Coordinator, Diversity Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	3
2.	<u>REVIEW OF COMMUNITY & RACE RELATIONS POLICY</u>	3
3.	<u>HRM CULTURAL PLAN</u>	3
4.	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u>	3
5.	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	4

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall, without quorum. The Committee suspended the regular agenda at this time and continued with the following discussions:

2. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY & RACE RELATIONS POLICY

The Community & Race Relations Policy (revised draft as of October 7, 2004) was before the Committee.

Committee members discussed the draft policy and the following comments were made:

- ! There appear to be no substantive changes to be made to the policy.
- ! Members were glad to have the opportunity to review the document again.
- ! It is important that the policy is frequently referenced, by the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee, as well as other Committees. It was suggested that the Policy be re-circulated to all HRM Boards and Committees, along with Regional Council, with the request that the Policy be referenced within their work, where applicable.
- ! New appointments to committees will take place in November. New Board and Committee members should be provided with a copy of the policy to ensure good representation. The deadline for applications is October 14, 2005. It was noted that there are two vacancies on the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee and the current members terms expire on May 31, 2006.
- ! Members were reluctant to make minor changes to the policy that did not substantively change the content of the policy, since there are so many copies of the policy already in circulation.

Committee members proceeded with a discussion regarding the terms “racial tolerance” and “race”, which initiated at the September 8, 2005 meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the draft policy presently before the Committee members, and it was noted by the Legislative Assistant that the last time the Committee discussed the policy was October 7, 2004. Suggested changes at that meeting have been incorporated into the draft. The Chair asked the Legislative Assistant to highlight the changes made, for the next meeting and also circulate copies of the original policy. The policy will be added to the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

3. HRM CULTURAL PLAN

The Chair informed the Committee that the Cultural Plan presented at the September 8, 2005 meeting of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee was approved by Regional Council.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 3, 2005. Ms. Sylvia Parris gave regrets for the next

meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant