

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE JUNE 5, 2002 MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Juan Carlos Canales-Leyton, Acting Chair
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Mr. Sid Chedrawe
Ms. May Lui
Ms. Slyvia Parris
Mr. Shawn Lahey
Mr. David Khokhar

ABSENT: Ms. Betty Thomas (Regrets)
Councillor Dawn Sloane (Regrets)
Mr. Haji M. Amari (Regrets)
Mr. Michael Paul (Regrets)
Mr. Thomas Rissesco

STAFF: Ms. Charla Williams, Diversity Program Coordinator
Constable Cedric Upshaw, Halifax Regional Police
Sherryl Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Mr. Chedrawe, seconded by Mr. Lahey that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 6 and April 3, 2002

MOVED by Ms. Lui, seconded by Mr. Chedrawe that the minutes of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee held on March 6, 2002 and April 3, 2002 be approved, as distributed.

Note was made that approval of the Notes of May 1, 2002 was not required.

3.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR/MEMBERSHIP ON SUBCOMMITTEES

Mr. Canales-Leyton advised that Ms. Thomas had indicated she would be willing to stand for another year as Chair.

Mr. Canales-Leyton left the Chair with Ms. Williams assuming the responsibility of the conduct of the Election of officers.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Mr. Chedrawe that Mr. Canales-Leyton be nominated as Chair of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee for the 2002-2003 term.

Mr. Canales-Leyton indicated that he would accept the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Mr. Lahey, seconded by Mr. Canales-Leyton that Ms. Thomas be nominated as Chair of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee for the 2002-2003 term. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Canales-Leyton retires from the meeting pending a vote on the nominations.

Ms. Williams called for the vote on Mr. Canales-Leyton's nomination, resulting in a tie vote. The vote on Ms. Thomas's nomination also resulted in a tie vote.

Mr. Canales-Leyton returned to the meeting and, upon being apprised of the situation, cast his vote in favour of Ms. Thomas's nomination.

Ms. Thomas is, therefore, appointed Chair of the Community and Race Relations Committee for the 2002-2003 term.

As nominated by Mr. Paul, seconded by Ms. Paris that Mr. Shawn Lahey serve as Vice-Chair for the 2002-2003 term.

Mr. Lahey indicated that he would accept the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Mr. Lahey, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that Mr. Canales-Leyton be nominated as Chair of the Community and Race Relations Committee for the 2002-2003 term.

Mr. Canales-Leyton indicated that he would accept the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Lahey and Mr. Canales-Leyton retired from the meeting pending the outcome of the vote.

Ms. Williams called for the vote on Mr. Lahey's nomination, which resulted in Mr. Lahey's nomination being defeated. Ms. Williams called for the vote on Mr. Canales-Leyton's nomination, which resulted in Mr. Canales-Leyton's nomination being approved.

Mr. Lahey and Mr. Canales-Leyton returned to the meeting.

Ms. Williams advised that Mr. Canales-Leyton's nomination for Vice-Chair had been approved. She then turned the meeting back to Mr. Canales-Leyton.

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Community and Race Relations Policy/Advisory Committee for Persons - with Disabilities - Update (Chair)

An update was not available.

5.0 COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS POLICY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE - CHARLA WILLIAMS

Ms. Williams advised that the Implementation Committee had met this morning with a

focus on the upcoming launch of the Diversity Logo/Slogan on June 20, 2002. Ms. Williams invited all members to attend. She went on to note that the launch was HRM employee focused and that Mr. Canales-Leyton, as a member of the Selection Committee, and the Deputy Mayor, representing the Mayor, would be attending. Ms. Williams advised that George McLellan, CAO, would also be attending. She stressed that eventually the internal focus would move to a more external focus and the logo/slogan would be used on communications to the public.

On another topic, Ms. Williams circulated a copy of Black to Business, a local magazine, in which Ms. Betty Thomas is profiled.

6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's report was unavailable.

7.0 WORKPLAN - WORKING GROUP UPDATE

An update was not available.

8.0 ISSUES AFFECTING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

8.1 Sewage Treatment Plant - District 12 - Update Councillor Sloane

A brief discussion regarding the Committee's role with regard to the complaint before the Human Rights Commission relative to the location of the Sewage Treatment Plant ensued.

Ms. Williams cautioned that the Committee is advisory to Council and any action on behalf of the Committee which would give the appearance of a bias would be detrimental to their role in advising Council.

After a further short discussion, it was agreed the Committee would contact Council indicating their willingness to assist only in the event that a formal complaint was received.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Cultural Diversity Recognition Award - Charla Williams and Cedric Upshaw

Notes from the May 1, 2002 non quorum meeting relating to this matter, as follows, were adopted by the Committee:

- *The Chair wished to recognize Charla Williams and Cedric Upshaw having received the Cultural Diversity Recognition Award at an event Saturday night organized by the Centre for Diverse Visible Cultures. She felt it was important that the two individuals have been recognized for the work they have been doing for many years. Ms. Williams passed around two items associated with the award.*

Ms. Williams noted Mr. Canales-Leyton was Vice-President of the Center for Diverse Visible Cultures and Mr. Amari was a member. She encouraged anyone interested in becoming a member to get involved, as it is a very worthwhile organization.

9.2 Multicultural Festival

In response to a questions from Ms. Lui regarding what, if anything, the Committee was planning to do in connection with the Multicultural Festival, Ms. Williams distributed copies of a promotional piece on the Committee suggesting they could be dispersed at the Festival.

Councillor Blumenthal suggested that the Committee forward a letter to the Multicultural Festival Committee congratulating them on their 18th year, **to which the Committee agreed.**

10.0 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, July 3, 2002

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Assistant Municipal Clerk