

**COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 2, 2006**

NOTES

PRESENT: Ms. May Lui, Vice Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum
Mr. David Khokar
Ms. Betty Josey
Ms. Alexandra McCallum
Dr. Inder Bhatia
Ms. Shelley Fashan
Ms. Tamara Krawchenko
Mr. Thomas Rissesco

**ABSENT WITH
REGRETS:** Ms. Betty Thomas, Chair
Ms. Sylvia Parris
Ms. Kristel Vom Scheidt
Ms. Nicole Briand

STAFF: Ms. Tatjana Zatezalo, Diversity Consultant
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 5, 2006	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	3
4.1	Canadian Commission for UNESCO re: Coalition of Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination	3
4.2	CRRAC Work Plan	4
5.	NEW BUSINESS	4
5.1	Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee brochure update ...	4
5.2	Councillor Snow resignation	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS	4
7.	ADDED ITEMS	4
7.1	Information Item - Guru Nanak Scholarship	5
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - December 7, 2006	5
9.	ADJOURNMENT	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, **without a quorum.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 5, 2006

May Lui noted that on page 4 of the minutes of October 5, 2006, the last bullet at the top of the page be amended to read "5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m." The approval of the minutes of October 5, 2006 will be deferred to the next meeting as a quorum is required for approval.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The agenda was agreed upon as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Canadian Commission for UNESCO re: Coalition of Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination

Ms. Tatjana Zatezalo, Diversity Consultant, provided an oral update of the UNESCO initiative, noting the following:

- C The initiative was approved by Council, in the same format as previously presented to the Committee;
- C Staff will compile race relations initiatives already underway, or that have previously been undertaken by HRM, to share with UNESCO;
- C Staff will be developing an action plan to advance work in the area of race relations;
- C The declaration needs a few other consultations prior to signing;
- C She suggested having the declaration signed on December 10, 2006, which is Human Rights Day;
- C She will have a further update for the Committee at the next meeting.

May Lui suggested holding a ceremony with a reception for the Mayor to sign the declaration, inviting representatives from community organizations, other HRM boards and committees, and different levels of government.

Ms. Lui went on to indicate that she drafted a letter to Mayor, requesting that he declare June 22, 2006, Chinese Head Tax Redress Day. Ms. Lui indicated that she is seeking the support of the Committee, and advised that she will distribute copies of the letter to Committee members through the Legislative Assistant.

Ms. Zatezalo distributed Diversity pins to Committee members. She commented that Diversity Week falls at a busy time of year for HRM employees (3rd week of September), and staff will be making a recommendation to change the date of Diversity Week to another time of year such as late October, late May, or early June.

Ms. Lui advised that she and the Chair are proposing to hold a holiday social at the Great Wall restaurant, 1649 Bedford Row, downtown Halifax, at 5:30 p.m. on December 7, 2006, in lieu of the December meeting. The Committee was in agreement, and the Legislative Assistant will forward details to Committee members.

4.2 CRRAC Work Plan

C An updated Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee Work Plan was before the Committee.

Ms. McCallum indicated that the database of cultural organizations that she and Ms. Vom Scheidt offered to compile has not yet been completed.

The Committee briefly discussed the CRRAC Work Plan, in particular, presenting on behalf of the Committee to the six different Community Councils. It was also suggested that data could be compiled for different communities, and this data could be incorporated into the presentations to community councils, to highlight the 'make-up' of different communities.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee brochure update

C A copy of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee brochure was before the Committee.

The Committee discussed the CRRAC brochure, and suggested updating the brochure and redistributing copies to Councillors and community organizations, to raise the profile of the Committee. The following amendments to the brochure were noted:

C Change the second bullet on the brochure *from* "To promote the Policy with Education and Sensitization." *to* "To promote the policy.";

C Change "Your Committee has been very active for a number of years in fostering the goals of the Policy:" to "Your Committee has been very active for a number of years in fostering the goals of the *Race Relations* Policy:";

C Remove capital letters in such words as "Equality", "Opportunity", "Anti-Racism", "Cultural" and "Diversity", except for references of "the Policy" and "the Committee".

5.2 Councillor Snow resignation

The Legislative Assistant advised that Councillor Snow has resigned from the Committee due Committee meetings conflicting with community meetings for her district. She advised that Councillor Mary Wile will be replacing Councillor Snow as of December 2006.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS - None

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Information Item - Guru Nanak Scholarship

C Information regarding the Guru Nanak Scholarship was before the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the information regarding the Guru Nanak Scholarship, noting that this scholarship provides \$5,000 in annual scholarships for African Nova Scotian students pursuing a degree in engineering. It was indicated that the scholarship was only awarded once between 1988 and 2004. This scholarship was brought to the attention of the Committee to share information regarding additional financial incentives and support in place for African Nova Scotian students.

Councillor Hum suggested that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Provincial School Boards, encouraging them to add the Guru Nanak Scholarship to their lists of scholarships available to students. Ms. Fashan suggested that the letter also be sent to the Council on African Canadian Studies to be added to their list.

Mr. Bhatia indicated that he has not received a response to the letter he drafted regarding presenting to school children on the technological advancements of India, in order to bring race relations to schools at a young age. Mr. Bhatia advised that the letter was presented at the August 3, 2006 Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee meeting, and was addressed to the Chair. He noted that the Chair indicated she would pass along the letter to the Mayor, and ask for a letter of support from the Mayor, prior to forwarding the request to the School Board. It was also noted that Committee member Sylvia Parris, as an employee of the Halifax Regional School Board, was to review the request prior to forwarding it to the school board.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed to hold a holiday social at the Great Wall restaurant, 1649 Bedford Row, downtown Halifax, at 5:30 p.m. on December 7, 2006 in lieu of the December meeting. The Legislative Assistant will forward details to Committee members.

The next regular meeting of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee is scheduled for January 11, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant