

COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 1, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ms. Betty Thomas, Chair
Ms. May Lui, Vice Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Mary Wile
Ms. Alexandra McCallum
Dr. Inder Bhatia
Ms. Shelley Fashan
Ms. Tamara Krawchenko
Mr. Thomas Rissesco
Ms. Nicole Briand

**ABSENT WITH
REGRETS:** Ms. Betty Josey
Mr. David Khokar
Ms. Sylvia Parris

STAFF: Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Christina Sears, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. **without quorum.**

Round table introductions were held for the benefit of new members.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 5, 2006 & November 2, 2006

This item was addressed later in the meeting. (See page 4)

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

This item was addressed later in the meeting. (See page 4)

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.2 Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee - Work Plan

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

Ms. Alexandra McCallum advised she is working on creating a master list of community organizations for the Committee, compiling and updating lists from other organizations.

Dr. Inder Bhatia passed on the contact information for the Indo Canadian Association.

Ms. McCallum suggested that the Race Relations Policy be sent with the Committee brochure once the list is completed. She also offered to write a covering letter to the organizations.

Mr. Thomas Rissesco arrived at 5:13 p.m. at which time a **quorum was reached.**

Councillor Wile indicated that she would contact Theatre Halifax to inquire whether they have a list of community groups.

Councillor Hum arrived at 5:17 p.m.

Ms. Betty Thomas indicated that she would contact Dr. Henry Bishop at the Black Cultural Centre to inquire whether he has a list of community groups.

Ms. Nicole Briand advised that she would contact the Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association to inquire whether they have a list of community groups.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 5, 2006 & November 2, 2006

Ms. May Lui noted some minor spelling changes to the October 5, 2006 minutes.

MOVED by Mr. Rissesco, seconded by Ms. McCallum, that the minutes of October 5, 2006 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Rissesco noted that he was in attendance at the November 2, 2006 meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Rissesco, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the minutes of November 2, 2006 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Added:

4.3 Chinese Canadian Head Tax Redress Day - May Lui

MOVED by Ms. McCallum, seconded by Ms. Lui that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The Chair read an email written on behalf of Tatjana Zatezalo, noting that staff are working with the Mayor to have the UNESCO declaration signed tentatively on March 21, 2007, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Racism.

Ms. Tamara Krawchenko noted that she is working on a race relations paper that she will be presenting at a conference in Toronto. She advised that she will distribute copies of the paper to Committee members for their information.

Ms. Shelley Fashan arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Members discussed the opportunity to raise the profile of the Committee on March 21, 2007 by holding an event in conjunction with the signing of the declaration.

MOVED by Ms. McCallum, seconded by Mr. Rissesco that the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee wishes to take part in any event being planned by the Mayor's office regarding the signing of the UNESCO declaration or regarding the International Day for the Elimination of Racism on March 21st. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.3 Chinese Canadian Head Tax Redress Day - May Lui

Ms. Lui outlined the letter to the Mayor that was distributed at an earlier meeting requesting that June 22nd be declared annually as Chinese Canadian Head Tax Redress Day. She advised that she has been discussing this initiative with various Chinese associations to gain support.

MOVED by Mr. Rissesco, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee support Ms. Lui's request to have June 22nd declared as Chinese Canadian Head Tax Redress Day. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Ms. McCallum, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee write a letter to the Mayor supporting Ms. Lui's request to have June 22nd declared as Chinese Canadian Head Tax Redress Day. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. McCallum offered to write the letter for the Chair to sign.

The Committee went on to discuss the history of the exclusion of races in Canada.

Mr. Rissesco left the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

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 with proposed revisions was before the Committee.

The Chair noted that the Committee had previously discussed updating the brochure at the November 2, 2006 meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to retract changes made at the November 2, 2006 meeting.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant have copies of the Committee brochure and the Race Relations policy reprinted. The Legislative Assistant advised that she will redistribute a list of where the brochures were distributed previously for the Committee to add to. Suggestions of additions were the Department of Tourism, the Halifax International Airport, and the HRM Customer Service Centre in the West End Mall.

The Chair encouraged Committee members to forward suggestions of organizations to the Legislative Assistant to pass on to Ms. McCallum.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS - None

7. ADDED ITEMS

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 Approval of 2007 Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Ms. McCallum, that the 2007 meeting schedule be approved as follows:

**January 11
February 1
March 1
April 5
May 3
June 7
September 6
October 4
November 1
December 6**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee briefly discussed the undertaking of community murals and the youth mural art program by HRM.

Ms. Lui advised that the Cultural Advisory Committee is seeking recommendations for the 2014 Commonwealth Games Bid. She noted that Committee members could pass on suggestions to her by next Wednesday to bring back to the committee.

The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant include a space on the monthly agenda for Ms. Lui to update the Committee on Cultural Advisory Committee business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Christina Sears
Legislative Assistant

The following items were distributed for the information of the Committee:

1. Memo with attached Cultural Advisory Committee minutes
2. Information from Dr. Bhatia regarding an Active and Healthy Aging workshop.