Anti-racism Advisory Committee City of Edmonton

Meeting Minutes July 13, 2022 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Invited Attendees

Committee Members:

Beth Brusselers, Trent Daley, Harman Singh Kandola, Ada Okeke, Sameer Singh, Shalini Sinha, Kimberly Yamada

Council Sponsors:

Councillor Aaron Paquette, Councillor Erin Rutherford

Guests:

Thomas Bankole, Lloyd Cardinal, Dawn Carter, Cherry Disco, Beverly Elliot, Kate Gunn, Ayesha Irfan, Junetta Jamerson, Nicole Jones-Abad, Selina Kunadu-Yiadom, Courtney Laforce, Noreta Lewis, Sean Malden, Kemoh Mansaray, Sabrina Morrison, Cristian Munoz, Dunia Nur, Lucenia Ortiz, Rohan Parikh, Wati Rahmat, Elsa Robinson, Rhea Ross, Selma, Mudra Shah, Corey Wyness, David Yao

Regrets:

Nestor Avalos, Joud Nour Eddin, Rehana Gilani, Samuel Juru, Andrew Parker, Faisal Salama

Administration:

Sevan Beukian, Courage Bobong Fon, Jasmine Brazil, Mike Chow, Antoinette Davis, Salima Ebrahim, Helen Frost, Stacey Gellatly, Carissa Lamoureux

1.0 Welcome	ACTION	LEAD
 1.1 Call to Order The ARAC meeting started at 5:09 pm. Land Acknowledgment Land acknowledgement was made by Shalini Sinha. Roll Call Roll call was completed. 		

2.0 Review	ACTION	LEAD
 2.1 Agenda Review - Agenda was reviewed and approved. 	Approved	

3.0 Minutes	ACTION	LEAD
 3.1 Review and approval of: <u>June 8, 2022 meeting minutes</u> - Discussion arose with the wording within the appointment process priorities within the minutes. 		
Motion: That the Anti-racism Advisory Committee to defer approving the June 8, 2022 minutes until the August 10, 2022 Anti-racism Advisory Committee meeting.		

Edmonton

Approved

4.0 Discussion items	ACTION	LEAD
 4.1 City of Edmonton Youth Council Report on Research Conducted with Youth in Edmonton on Anti-Racism and Safety, and discussion Conducting interviews resulted in: Integration of hot lines (the current one is tied into EPS) Examples within Canada: Act2EndRacism, Hotline to address racist incidents to be created in British Columbia in response to an increase in racism Youth Engagement and How it Can Help The Jewish Federation perspective: created a safe space for youth by allowing them to interact with each other and form a support system. Importance of Education (formalized and types of situations where education can take place). EPS schools have created an environment that does not facilitate a safe environment for anti-racism discussions. What needs to change: Schools need to recognize the needs of students Create safe spaces for anti-racism discussions/training Online mediums can facilitate misinformation, hateful messages, and the dissemination of stereotypes especially with the onset of the coronavirus. Feedback: Within the SRO program, as some races are not being negatively affected by police officers within schools, their opinions may not be weighted the same. Worth being clear on what the statistics represent and who they represent. How do you get youth comfortable using the hotline? Establishing the fact the hotline is anonymous. 		
 4.2 C529 Immigration and Settlement Policy review presentation Consultants working with the City of Edmonton on the Immigration and Settlement Policy and looking to gather feedback from ARAC members. An engagement session will be held during the July 27, 2022 subcommittee meeting. Additional links: State of Immigration and Settlement in Edmonton Annual Report (2021) C529 Policy- Immigration and Settlement Indigenous people need to be included within the engagement and create more relationships as a main piece of the Policy. 		

5.0 Community Presentations	ACTION	LEAD
 5.1 Community Presentations Received speaking requests for two community presentations. In 2020, ARAC created a process that speaking requests go to the subcommittee for review. Shalini invited Lloyd Cardinal to Chair section 5.1 of the meeting. 		

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- Lloyd Cardinal offered a prayer.		
 Presentation 1: Black Women United YEG Discussed concerns surrounding how Dawn Carter, former Executive Director of the Pride Centre of Edmonton, was treated by the Pride Centre and by Shalini Sinha, Chair of the Anti-racism Advisory Committee and the Pride Centre Board, and difficulties experienced while trying to arrange an opportunity to present to ARAC, which resulted in elevating the issue to Mayor Sohi's office. Black Women United YEG: Would like to return the Anti-racism Grants Program funding. Please advise Black Women United on steps to return the money. Demands the resignation of Shalini from ARAC and from the Pride Centre Board. Would like ARAC to overhaul its processes to rid itself of the structural violence/structural conflict which leads to structural violence and anti-Black racism. 		
 Presentation 2: Shades of Colour Presented concerns about the dismissal of Dawn Carter, former Executive Director of the Pride Centre of Edmonton. Shades of Colour: Would like meeting minutes to be sent to Shades of Colour and Junetta after the meeting for approval before they are posted publicly to ensure that what they said was properly captured. Would like an apology from Shalini and the Pride Centre of Edmonton to Dawn Carter, Shades of Colour and Black Women United YEG. Would like Shalini to step down from the Pride Centre Board. Would like Shalini to step down from ARAC. 		
 ARAC members responded to the presentations. ARAC will invite the two presentators to the Internal subcommittee meeting for further discussion. 		

6.0 Subcommittee Updates	ACTION	LEAD
 6.1 Subcommittee meeting updates Ratification of Anti-racism Grants Program Review Panel members 	Tabled	

7.0 City Council Updates	ACTION	LEAD
 7.1 Items of interest / updates at City Council City Council is on summer break. Pope Francis is coming to Edmonton to hear from Indigenous Peoples and expand knowledge to understand more. Going into 2023-2026 Budget cycle deliberations. There will be public hearings and anyone is able to speak on concerns. 		

8.0 Adjournment	ACTION	
- Adjourned at 7:51 pm.		

Next Meeting			
Date	Time	Location	
August 10, 2022	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	TBD	