

Oshawa Community Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee

Meeting Date: Monday, June 29, 2026

Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Civic Recreation Centre Boardroom (99 Thornton Rd. S.), Oshawa ON

Members: Maria Chinelli, Christine Goodwin, Ariela Kong, Pam Reines (Chair), Lee Rosen, Kweku Winful

Regrets: Saumya Bhasin, Nadea Clarke (Vice Chair), Elle de Lyon, Sadie Goddard-Durant, David Mandziuk, Leah Norman, Donald Shields

Staff: Vanessa Abban, Arpita Savaliya

Agenda

1. Welcome

- Due to confusion with the meeting time, the formal meeting agenda was deferred. Members agreed to have an informal discussion about city updates, upcoming initiatives, and end of term debrief.
- V. Abban recognized the following members who will be leaving the committee and thanked them for all of their contributions:
 - C. Goodwin and D. Shields have completed four terms with the C.D.E.I.C., which is the limit as per the Terms of Reference.
 - S. Goddard-Durant has indicated that she will be stepping down from the C.D.E.I.C. at the end of the current term.

2. City update

- The City is working to revise its Community Grants Program and will engage the C.D.E.I.C. for feedback.
- The City is updating the Integrated Transportation Master Plan and Active Transportation Master Plan and is seeking input. C.D.E.I.C. members can visit Connect Oshawa for more information and to provide feedback on that process.
- Registration is open for candidates in the municipal elections. Information about the current candidate list, how to register to run, and the upcoming election process (including new internet voting) can be found on www.voteoshawa.ca.

3. C.D.E.I.C. Recruitment

- C.D.E.I.C. recruitment is underway and has received 22 applications so far.
- Further information about the C.D.E.I.C. recruitment process will be shared in an email for feedback.
- A subcommittee will be created to review the applications, support the interviews, and select the new members.
 - L. Rosen, K. Winful, and M. Chinelli indicated their interest in participating in the sub-committee.
 - City staff will share potential dates for the review and interview process to ensure the timing works for the sub-committee.
- Action Items:
 - City Staff to share C.D.E.I.C. recruitment process information.
 - Committee members to review recruitment process information and provide feedback.
 - Committee members to indicate interest in joining the subcommittee.

4. End of Term Debrief

- The Committee discussed the 2025-2026 term including highlights and considerations for the 2026-2027 term.
- The following summary is provided on what worked well for the term:
 - The Committee was active and present during the events that they could attend such as the D.E.I. forum, the Pride Parade, and Asian and South Asian Heritage Month.
 - The presence of Committee members at the Special Council meeting in May was impactful and encouraging.
 - Connections made between Committee members have been helpful when organizing and supporting community initiatives.
- The following summary is provided on what could be improved:
 - The Committee planned events within tight timelines this year. It would be ideal to plan earlier for events and initiatives to have enough time for planning and encourage better community engagement.
 - A plan will be put in place to prioritize work planning at the first meeting in September for the new term.

- Some Committee members would like to consider the development of sub-committees to do work in between formal Committee meetings. This will be considered alongside the fact that the C.D.E.I.C. is a volunteer committee and members all have differing capacities to be able to participate.
- The Committee discussed the importance of increased engagement with staff, community, and Council.
- It is important to clarify the attendance expectations with current and new C.D.E.I.C. members and for people to contribute and engage through the duration of their term.
- More can be done to engage the skillsets of individual committee members.
- The Committee also discussed some takeaways from the D.E.I. Forum to consider for next year:
 - The keynote speaker for this year's forum was not engaging or prepared. Further due diligence is required to vet and select a speaker.
 - The food presentation from the first forum was exceptional and could be considered for future events.

Next Meeting: TBD; September