

Oshawa Community Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee

Meeting Date: June 3, 2024
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Location: City Hall

Members in Attendance: Bev Fiddler, Davaun Francis, Christine Goodwin, Ayesha Khan, Pam Reines, Donald Shields

Staff in Attendance: Vanessa Abban, Julie MacIsaac

Regrets: Matthew Davis, Sadie Goddard-Durant, Fleursha Milfort, Mariia Pitolai, Sara Romanchuk,

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. African Ancestral Acknowledgement
4. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Fiddler moved to approve; members agreed.
5. Approval of April Meeting Notes
 - D. Francis moved to approve; members agreed.
6. City Update
 - City staff provided an update on the following items:
 - There was an internal presentation for City Staff in May on the topic of Asian identity and history in Canada, anti-Asian racism, and supporting people of Asian identity in the workplace.
 - A recommendation was made that CDEIC be invited to staff sessions if and when appropriate. Staff agreed to invite CDEIC members to future sessions.

- The City will be raising the flag for Disability Pride Month. City Staff will confirm the date and time and work with the CDEIC on any programming for the flag raising.
- C. Goodwin noted that she has developed a resource explaining the objectives of Disability Pride Month. She will share with committee members for information.
- A recommendation is moving forward to Council to change what is now “Bagot Street” to “Debwewin Miikan”. Debwewin means truth and Miikan means road in Anishinaabemowin.
- An update was provided that the Oshawa Strategic Plan will go to Council for approval at the end of June. The Strategic Plan makes note of a number of commitments to DEIAA and Indigenous reconciliation and relationship building.
- In preparation for the next meeting, members were informed that staff from Culture and Events will attend the meeting to facilitate a conversation on diversity in City events, and members will be asked to provide input to support development of a work plan for the Innovation and Transformation Branch.

7. Debrief Special Council Meeting

- Members congratulated P. Reines on delivering an excellent presentation to City Council.
- Members noted that Council Chambers can be intimidating for people coming in to present or provide a delegation.
- A discussion was had on how to make future presentations more engaging to solicit more questions from Council.

8. Summer Working Groups/Events

- The current CDEIC meeting schedule concludes at the end of June. The committee does not formally meet again until September. There is some work and events that will take place over the summer that members are invited to participate in if they are able to.

- The current list of involvement includes CDEIC recruitment sub-committee, Black History Month brainstorming group, participation at Canada Day and Emancipation Day tables.
- City staff will send out a poll to get members availability to participate in these activities. Staff will reach out if other activities come up over the summer as well.

9. Teaching City Project – Youth Recreation Programs

- City staff advised members that there is an opportunity to work with Trent University and Recreation Services to develop a research project for students to better understand the barriers that youth face in accessing city recreation programs.
- Members provided input on some key considerations that should be considered as part of this project.
- City staff will confirm with Trent University that the CDEIC is interested in supporting this research, which aligns with the committee's current work plan.

10. General Roundtable

- Members spoke about the importance of doing meaningful work on DEI and hoping that the new Oshawa Strategic Plan will support those efforts.
- Members noted appreciation for City staff in the work that they do to support the committee and DEI work in Oshawa.

9. Adjournment

- Next meeting: June 26, 2024