

Oshawa Community Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee

Meeting Date: Monday, June 26, 2024
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Location: City Hall Committee Room
(50 Centre St S, Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7)

Members in Attendance: Matthew Davis, Davaun Francis, Christine Goodwin, Ayesha Khan, Fleursha Milfort, Mariia Pitolai, Pam Reines

Staff in Attendance: Vanessa Abban, Julie MacIsaac

Guests: Laura Iantomasi, Susan Kordalewski, Catherine Richards

Regrets: Bev Fiddler, Sadie Goddard-Durant, Sara Romanchuk, Donald Shields

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Land Acknowledgement
 - J. MacIsaac provided the land acknowledgement.
3. African Ancestral Acknowledgement
 - V. Abban provided the African Ancestral Acknowledgement
4. Approval of Agenda
 - A movement was made to approve the agenda, which was seconded.
5. Approval of June 3 Meeting Notes
 - A movement was made to approve the June 3 meeting notes, which was seconded.
6. City Update
 - City Staff provided an update on the following items:
 - C.D.E.I.C. recruitment to date has received 42 applications. The application period will close on June 28th.
 - P. Reines, B. Fiddler, A. Khan, and F. Milfort have been identified as members of the recruitment sub-committee.
 - Exit interviews have been conducted with departing C.D.E.I.C. members. There are plans to establish a C.D.E.I.C. alumni network and annual forum.
 - The flag raising for Disability Pride Month will take place on July 8 from 9:30 to 10:00 am at City Hall. Members are encouraged to attend if they can.

- Council approved the renaming of Bagot St. to Debwewin Miikan.
Debwewin' is an Anishinaabemowin word meaning 'truth'. 'Miikan' means 'road'.
- Staff are planning a community event for Islamic Heritage Month in October.
More information to come.

7. Discussion with Culture and Events: Incorporating diversity and inclusion in City events

- L. Iantomasi, S. Kordalewski, and C. Richards from the City's Economic and Development Services branch delivered presentations on upcoming culture and events programming to obtain C.D.E.I.C. input to enhance diversity and inclusion.
- Members provided comments about ensuring diversity and representation of different identities especially as arts is how people express themselves
- C. Goodwin suggested connecting with Tangled, a Toronto-based arts organization that includes representation from Durham artists.
- A. Khan suggested connecting with Aga Khan Museum for Muslim artwork.
- S. Kordalewski said that she will share their team's current outreach list for C.D.E.I.C. members to recommend other organizations to contact.
- Members recommended that other decorations and symbols be used during the Bright and Merry market to represent other celebrations taking place at and around the same time.
- P. Reines suggested posting in local businesses to spread outreach to people who may not engage with traditional City outreach methods.
- D. Francis noted that by reaching out to other communities, the City will benefit by getting feedback from groups not often consulted.
- D. Francis suggested reaching out to venues outside of Oshawa that Oshawa artists might utilize due to a lack of opportunities in the city and region.
- C. Goodwin stated that the City of Pickering has a lighting ceremony that lights up the whole park, not just a tree, and suggested that might be a more inclusive approach to celebrating the season.

8. Update on Oshawa's Strategic Plan

- J. MacIsaac provided an update on the City of Oshawa's approved strategic plan.

- Members appreciated the plan and the commitment to DEI, however noted that there were some missed opportunities to take the commitment further.
- M. Davis noted the missed opportunity to make DEI a pillar of the strategy and have a stronger focus on the City working to achieve equitable outcomes for all.
- V. Abban will share the strategic plan for the Committee's information.

9. Discussion to support DEI work planning for 2024-2025

- Members reviewed the current C.D.E.I.C. work plan to identify priorities and opportunities for the Innovation and Transformation branch work plan and budget.

10. Appreciation of departing members

- Members and staff recognized the contributions of departing members D. Francis and M. Pitolai.

11. General Roundtable

- M. Davis spoke about the significance and importance of Juneteenth. Juneteenth celebrates the date of June 19, 1865, when enslaved people of African descent located in Galveston, Texas, finally learned of their freedom from the slavery system in the United States.

12.9. Adjournment

- Next meeting: September 2024