

Oshawa Community Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee

Meeting Date: Monday, September 30, 2024

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: City Hall Committee Room, 50 Centre St S, Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7

Present: Maria Chinelli, Nadea Clarke, Matthew Davis, Beverly Fiddler, Sadie Goddard-Durant, Christine Goodwin, Ayesha Khan, Ariela Kong, Fleursha Milfort, Lean Norman, Pam Reines (Chair), Sara Romanchuk, Peace Serwaah, Donald Shields, Kweku Winful

Regrets: Suyani Suthakaran

Staff: Vanessa Abban, Julie MacIsaac

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome

- P. Reines welcome members to the first meeting of the year.

2. Land Acknowledgement

- J. MacIsaac provided the City of Oshawa's land acknowledgement.

3. African Ancestral Acknowledgement

- P. Reines read the African Ancestral Acknowledgement.

4. Approval of Agenda

- S. Romanchuk moved to approve the agenda. Members agreed.

5. Introductions

- P. Reines facilitated a round table discussion where all members introduced themselves.

6. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- Members watched two short clips to better their understanding of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and took a moment to reflect on their role in advancing reconciliation.

7. City Update

- V. Abban and J. MacIsaac provided an update on the City's recent D.E.I. initiatives.
- Materials will be shared with members after the meeting to have the full update.

- Members were advised that elections for a Committee Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the next meeting. Members are encouraged to consider the role and put their name forward if they would like to run.
- A summary of key updates includes:
 - The Region is organizing a symposium for municipal D.E.I. committees to network and work together. V. Abban will send out the Save the Date to the committee.
 - The City is hosting an Islamic History Month Movie and Culture night on October 23rd. The seats for the event are “sold out”. C.D.E.I.C. members are encouraged to volunteer and/or support a display table to engage with the Community. V. Abban will follow up with an ask of who would like to participate in the event.
 - V. Abban will share the poster for the upcoming Islamic History Month story time event at the library.
 - Members asked that materials for the City’s Treat Accessibility Campaign be shared digitally.
- Members identified that there is expertise within the C.D.E.I.C. that can be leveraged for staff training and education opportunities.

8. Inclusive Language Guide Working Group

- The Diversity, Equity and Reconciliation team is working to refresh and update the current Inclusive Language Guide.
- Members were asked to volunteer to participate in a sub-group to review the updated guide and provide feedback.
- The following members volunteered for the sub-group: L. Norman, S. Romanchuk, B. Fiddler, C. Goodwin, and S. Goddard-Durant.

9. Culture and Events Discussion

- V. Abban provided an update that the City’s Event’s team is planning for the Bright and Merry Market. Members are welcome to recommend community organizations that might want to host a display table at the event. Displayers must meet the City’s insurance requirements – which may be a barrier for some organizations.
- Members were disappointed that the Event has not changed much since Culture and Events attended a previous C.D.E.I.C. meeting to get feedback from

members. Members recommended that feedback be provided to Culture and Events in January 2025 to provide ample time to embed new ideas in the planning of the next Bright and Merry event.

- Culture and Events has shared their contact list for feedback. V. Abban will share the list with the Committee for any comments or suggestions.

10. Confirm Meeting Schedule

- Members agreed to meet on the last Wednesday of the month. V. Abban will send out a revised meeting schedule.

11. Work Planning

- V. Abban presented the Committee's current work plan. Discussion on this matter was deferred to the next meeting given the remaining time.
- C. Goodwin recommended that a large event for Disability Pride Month be added to the work plan.

12. Adjournment

- Members agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting is October 30, 2024, 7:00PM – 9:00PM.