



Town of Newmarket

Agenda

Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force

Date: August 3, 2021
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: Electronic VIA ZOOM
See How to Login Guide

1. Notice

At this time, the Municipal Offices remain closed to the public. This meeting will be available VIA ZOOM Meeting at newmarket.ca/meetings.

2. Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

4. Presentations

5. Deputations

6. Approval of Minutes

6.1. Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force Minutes - June 1, 2021

1. That the minutes of the Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force Minutes June 1, 2021 be approved.

7. Items

7.1. Affirmation

7.2. Review of Vision Statement

7.3. Reports from Subcommittees

7.4. Revision of the Workplan

8. New Business

9. Adjournment



Town of Newmarket

Minutes

Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force

Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: Electronic VIA ZOOM
See How to Login Guide

Members Present: Jerisha Grant-Hall
Nadia Hansen
Lori-Anne Beckford
Councillor Bisanz
Councillor Broome
Holly Douglass
Gavin Gunter
Gary Miranda
Councillor Morrison (4:02 PM – 5:08 PM; 5:12 PM – 5:14 PM)
Maxine Gordon Palomino
Kimberly Roach
Leslie Serieux (4:02 PM – 4:38 PM; 5:02 PM - 5:14 PM)

Members Absent: Claudius Brown
Opiyo Oloya

Staff Present: Jennifer Rose, Healthy Program Workplace Specialist
Kiran Saini, Deputy Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.
Jerisha Grant-Hall in the Chair.

1. Notice

Jerisha Grant-Hall advised that the Municipal Offices remain closed to the public.
This meeting was available VIA ZOOM Meeting at newmarket.ca/meetings.

2. Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

None.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

None.

4. Presentations

None.

5. Deputations

None.

6. Approval of Minutes

6.1 Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force Minutes - May 4, 2021

Moved by: Nadia Hansen
Seconded by: Councillor Bisanz

1. That the minutes of the Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force Minutes May 4, 2021 be approved.

Carried

7. Items

7.1 Affirmation

Jerisha Grant-Hall provided an indigenous land acknowledgement. She shared the impact of colonization and standing with the Indigenous community, and in particular the grief and trauma communities are once again experiencing as a result of the discovery of 215 unmarked graves at a former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Nadia Hansen shared an affirmation using the work of the Task Force as a foundation and reminder of who will be impacted by the work of the Task Force.

7.2 Review of Interim Report Presentation to Council

Jerisha Grant-Hall provided an update to Task Force members and advised that Members of Council were appreciative of the work of the Task Force and the interim report to Council. She advised that Council

requested an Information Report from staff to report on the provisional recommendations.

There was discussion regarding the provisional recommendations. Members noted that although they do not have finalized recommendations, they provided some direction as to what the final recommendations will be. With regards to Black History Month, it was noted that having year round education is important to embrace the history throughout the year rather than only during the month of February. There was further discussion regarding the how a Race Equity Impact Assessment would help the municipality assess the impacts that policies and decisions have on the Black community. The cities of Toronto and Vaughan were cited as examples for advancing various anti-Black racism initiatives.

7.3 Review of Draft Presentation to Council at Workshop on June 7, 2021

Jerisha Grant-Hall provided an overview of the presentation that she intended to deliver as part of the June 7 Council Workshop for all Advisory Committees, Boards and Task Forces. Members provided updates and suggested various edits to the presentation.

7.4 Review of Draft Vision Statement

Jerisha Grant-Hall requested that all Members review the draft vision statement and give some thought as to whether the current draft is appropriate or a more condensed version would be more impactful. It was requested that Members come prepared to discuss the vision statement at the next meeting in July.

7.5 Reports from Subcommittees

Gavin Gunter provided an update on behalf of subcommittee #1 and advised that there were no significant updates at this time. He noted that the Task Force will need to consider how to structure the final report to Council.

Leslie Serieux provided an update on behalf of subcommittee #2 and advised that at this time the subcommittee is reviewing demographic information that was provided through the Census data.

Nadia Hansen provided an update on behalf of subcommittee #3 and advised that the subcommittee continues to review and gather information for the final report.

Jerisha Grant-Hall advised that for the final report, the Task Force will need a works cited page and images for incorporation into the final report.

8. New Business

None.

9. Adjournment

Moved by: Nadia Hansen
Seconded by: Councillor Broome

1. That the meeting be adjourned at 5:14 PM.

Carried

Jerisha Grant-Hall, Chair

Date

Vision Statement of the Anti-Black Racism Task Force, Town of Newmarket

[DRAFT]

Making Newmarket a welcoming place, where all can feel like they belong, by creating a safe and respectful space where racial equity is realized for Black residents. Building on the vibrancy of the Afro-descendant community, while promoting a harmonious and peaceful means of intercultural understanding which will build a stronger community.

With the foremost recognition that anti-Black racism exists, the task force seeks ways to disrupt, displace and dismantle this scourge within our community of Newmarket.

In furtherance of these objectives we seek to:

- Act as one of the conduits to bring the challenges being faced by afro-descendants and their allies into the light. By so doing, we seek to be an agent for healing within the community for those whose lives have been adversely impacted by anti-Black racism in all its forms.
- Foster confidence in our democratic institutions by bringing these challenges and concerns to the local government (namely the Newmarket Town Council) thereby increasing the sense that this minority community feels 'heard' and is 'empowered'.
- Promote safe, harmonious and peaceful means of intercultural understanding which will build a stronger community via appropriate recommendations.
- Conceive or adopt recommendations tailored to the needs of the Newmarket community (at the procedural and policy levels) that seek to advance the equality of afro-descendants as well as improve the physical and emotional wellbeing outcomes of this segment of the community.

We further recognize the tremendous diversity within the community of those who possess African heritage & ancestry and celebrate the immense contributions such individuals have made to the Canadian way of life from the very start. Within the context of 2015-2024 being declared by the United Nations as the International Decade for People of African Descent, we further underscore and emphasize that harmonious and inclusive ways, beliefs and institutions will further strengthen the nation of Canada and that the scourge of racism detracts from the present and future prosperity of our beloved nation.

Word Count: 269

Vision Statement of the Anti-Black Racism Task Force, Town of Newmarket

We recognize the tremendous diversity among those who possess African heritage and ancestry in Newmarket and celebrate the immense contributions Afro descendant people have made to the Canadian way of life since the early seventeenth century. The United Nations declared 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent which creates the framework for respect and protection of African descendant peoples' fundamental freedoms and human rights.

The Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force aims to provide strategic direction to the Town of Newmarket which will lead to the implementation of the full and effective elimination of systemic discrimination in Newmarket. Building a strong and connected community where Black residents feel safe and dignified, and where racial equity, belonging and intercultural understanding are realized for all racialized communities, not just Black communities.

Furthermore, we seek to:

- Act as a conduit between the Town's afro-descendant peoples (and their allies), bringing their lived experiences to the forefront. By so doing, we seek to be an agent for healing within the community for those whose lives have been adversely impacted by anti-Black racism in all its forms.
- Promote confidence in our democratic institutions by bringing these social issues and concerns to the municipal government to advance the voice of the community.
- Nurture a safe, harmonious and peaceful Newmarket community through targeted recommendations that focus on racial equity and seek to advance the emotional and physical wellbeing of afro-descendant people
- Urge the Town of Newmarket to champion equitable outcomes for the Afro descendant segment of the community.