



Town of Newmarket

Anti-Black Racism Task Force

Minutes

Date: November 24, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: electronically via ZOOM

Members Present: Lori-Anne Beckford
Claudius Brown
Holly Douglass
Jerisha Grant-Hall
Gavin Gunter
Nadia Hansen
Glenn Marais (1:01 PM to 2:19 PM)
Gary Miranda
Opiyo Oloya
Maxine Palomino
Kimberly Roach (1:01 PM to 3:53 PM)
Councillor Simon (1:01 PM to 2:30 PM)
Councillor Morrison (1:19 PM to 4:05 PM)
Councillor Bisanz (1:01 PM to 4:02 PM)

Guests: Mayor Taylor

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

Call to Order

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Deputy Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Mayor Taylor provided introductory remarks and opening comments. He thanked members for volunteering their time, and lending their experience and knowledge to form Newmarket's first Anti-Black Racism Task Force. Members of the Task Force introduced themselves and provided a brief background as to why they were interested in joining the Task Force.

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an orientation session, noting that the Town's Procedure By-law, Local Code of Conduct and policies related to workplace free of harassment and discrimination apply to the Task Force. Accessibility orientation and training was also provided. A review of the terms of reference, mandate and deliverables was also included as part of the orientation.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Deputy Town Clerk called for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Moved by: Glenn Marais

Seconded by: Maxine Palomino

1. That Jerisha Grant-Hall be appointed as Chair of the Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force.

Carried

Moved by: Glenn Marais

Seconded by: Holly Douglass

2. That Nadia Hansen be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force.

Carried

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

None.

Conflict of Interest Declarations

None.

Items

2. Develop work plan and priorities for term

Members reviewed the deliverables within the Terms of Reference and developed a draft work plan. The draft work plan was developed into three priority areas of focus:

1. Consulting with the community to advise Council on matters involving anti-Black racism and racial equity within the Town of Newmarket; and, engage with local groups, businesses, agencies and institutions within Newmarket to support racial equity.
2. Sharing with Council and staff any policies and procedures which will enhance racial equity in the Town of Newmarket; and, promoting

understanding and acceptance of the diverse Black community residing in Newmarket by advising Council on issues and concerns raised by residents.

3. Cooperating and working in partnership with staff, coordinating with institutions and voluntary organizations to promote mutual trust and respect with Newmarket's diverse Black community; and, assisting staff as requested, in: promoting awareness of equity issues going on at the Town and Region; and carrying out programs and initiatives as directed by Council with specific reference to Black communities.

Three respective subcommittees were formed for each of the priority areas. Subcommittee one includes: Gary Miranda; Gavin Gunter; Opiyo Oloya; Maxine Palomino; and Councillor Morrison. Subcommittee two includes: Kimberly Roach; Lori-Anne Beckford; Jerisha Grant-Hall; Glenn Marais; and Councillor Bisanz. Subcommittee three includes: Holly Douglass; Claudius Brown; Nadia Hansen; and Councillor Simon.

Discussion on the subcommittee meeting frequency ensued. It was noted that staff resources would be available to attend subcommittees upon request, and that staff could assist with establishing virtual meetings, if needed. It was determined that subcommittee members would establish meeting frequency and times amongst themselves.

It was noted that having access to race-based data for the Town of Newmarket would be beneficial, and the discussion on the collection and source of this potential information ensued. There was also discussion regarding the learning outcomes and strategies from other public sector organizations, and how these may benefit the work of this Task Force.

Members were requested to consider the development of a vision for the Task Force, and come prepared to the subsequent meeting to discuss.

3. Establish meeting cycle

Discussion ensued on meeting frequency and time of day for future Task Force meetings.

Moved by: Gavin Gunter

Seconded by: Claudius Brown

1. That the Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force meetings for 2021 occur the first Tuesday of each month between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM; and,
2. That the next meeting for 2020 be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

Carried

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Moved by: Claudius Brown

Seconded by: Holly Douglass

1. That the meeting be adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Carried