



## RACIAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

September 5, 2019

A meeting of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 5, 2019, at 5:41pm, in Cascadia Room, Third Floor, City Hall.

**PRESENT:**

Ignatius But, Co-Chair  
Crecien Bencio  
Bindy Kang-Dhillon\*  
Alexandra Gunn  
Naz Gurbuz\*  
Nikki Koutsochilis\*  
Naomi Kronitz  
Rei Ga-Wun Leung  
Sonia Medel Borja\*  
Amal Rana  
Juggy Sihota  
YarOn Stern  
Kevonnie Whyte

**ABSENT:**

Felix-Marie Badeau (Leave of Absence)  
Anabel Lopez, Acting Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Council Liaison  
Trustee Allan Wong, School Board Liaison  
Baldwin Wong, Senior Social Planner, Staff Liaison  
April Sumter-Freitag, Social Planner, Staff Liaison  
Marie Lopes, Recreation Services Coordinator, Park Board  
Staff Liaison  
Councillor Christine Boyle, Chair, Nomination  
Subcommittee

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Tamarra Wong, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

### WELCOME

Rei Ga-Wun Leung, Acting Co-Chair, welcomed members and acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Naomi Kronitz  
SECONDED by Juggy Sihota

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Felix-Marie Badeau and Anabel Lopez for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Nikki Koutsochilis and Sonia Medel Borja absent for the vote)

### **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Amal Rana  
SECONDED by Alexandra Gunn

THAT the minutes of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee meeting of June 20, 2019, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Nikki Koutsochilis and Sonia Medel Borja absent for the vote)

### **1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

MOVED by Naz Gurbuz  
SECONDED by Kevonnie Whyte

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee appoint Ignatius But as the Co-Chair until December 31, 2020 and Anabel Lopez as Acting Co-Chair until November 14, 2019.

FURTHER THAT the election of a Co-Chair will take place at the November 14, 2019 meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

\* \* \* \* \*

*At this point in the meeting, Ignatius But assumed the Chair.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **2. Communication Equity Needs**

The Committee reviewed the accessibility needs of members. Rei Ga-Wun Leung agreed to share a letter with the Committee regarding the dismantling of audism. Nikki Koutsochilis will

provide the Accessibility Needs Survey results to the Co-Chairs for distribution and review at the October 24 working session.

### **3. Naming and Context of the Committee**

The Committee members shared their views regarding the Committee's name. In discussion, the Committee noted that there is confusion surrounding the meaning of ethno-cultural.

Councillors Boyle and Kirby-Yung along with staff, responded to questions regarding the history, context and debate on the name change, as well as provided additional information on the terms of reference and mandate.

Igantius But, Co-Chair, agreed to email members with a new deadline to complete the Work Plan Survey and to share the results at the October 24 working session.

### **4. Overview of Work Plan**

The Committee decided to discuss the structure of working groups and to establish a process for identifying and ranking key priorities at the October 24 working session.

Crecien Bencio enquired with staff for a status update regarding the ['Revisiting the Random Ballot for Equity's Sake' motion](#) approved at the July 24, 2019, Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting. Councillor Kirby-Yung agreed to notify Committee members when staff report back to Council.

Councillor Boyle provided context on the 'Historical Discrimination Against People of South Asian Descent in Vancouver' motion. Baldwin Wong, Staff Liaison, agreed to follow up with staff and provide further information to the Committee.

The Committee requested staff to attend and provide background information on the 'Combatting Antisemitism in Vancouver' and the 'Historical Discrimination Against People of South Asian Descent in Vancouver' motions at the October 24 working session. The Committee agreed to further discuss next steps at the working session.

### **5. New Business**

#### **a) Protocols Around Email and Communication**

The Committee agreed that group emails should be strictly used for committee business and not for sharing events; events and for your information content will be shared in person.

#### **b) Staff Liaison Update**

April Sumter-Freitag, Staff Liaison, noted that correspondence has been received regarding the video incident at Lord Byng Secondary School and will forward to the Committee for review.

**c) School Board Liaison Update**

Trustee Allan Wong provided an additional update regarding the video incident at Lord Byng Secondary School, noting that a petition has been circulated online. Trustee Wong also provided information on the Vancouver School Board's anti-racism mentor.

**Adjournment**

MOVED by YarOn Stern  
SECONDED by Naomi Kronitz

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Bindy Kang-Dhillon absent)

**Next Working Session:**

DATE: Thursday, October 24, 2019  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, November 14, 2019  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Cascadia Room  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:41 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*