



RACIAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

A meeting of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 5:35 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Ignatius But, Co-Chair
Felix-Marie Badeau
Alexandra Gunn
Bindy Kang-Dhillon
Nikki Koutsochilis
Naomi Kronitz
Anabel Lopez*
Sonia Medel Borja
Amal Rana
Juggy Sihota
Yaron Stern
Kevonnie Whyte

ABSENT: Naz Gurbuz (Medical Leave)

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Co-Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Yaron Stern
SECONDED by Felix-Marie Badeau

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of June 4, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Anabel Lopez absent for the vote)

MOVED by Felix-Marie Badeau
SECONDED by Naomi Kronitz

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of July 16, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Anabel Lopez absent for the vote)

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Vary Agenda

MOVED by Ignatius But
SECONDED by Felix-Marie Badeau

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda to deal with New Business next in order to add the following items to the agenda under New Business:

- New Business 1. Committee Team Building and Objective Setting Session and Next Steps;
- New Business 2. Committee Response to VPD Neighbourhood Response Unit;
- New Business 3. Committee Response to Anti-Semitism Motion;
- New Business 4. Race-Based Data Advocacy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Anabel Lopez absent for the vote)

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Vary Agenda

MOVED by Yaron Stern
SECONDED by Felix-Marie Badeau

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda and consider agenda items in the following order:

- New Business 1. Committee Team Building and Objective Setting Session and Next Steps;
- Item 3. Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule;

- New Business 2. Committee Response to VPD Neighbourhood Response Unit;
- New Business 3. Committee Response to Anti-Semitism Motion;
- New Business 4. Race-Based Data Advocacy;
- Item 4. Liaison Updates;
- Item 1 – Election of Co-Chair
- Item 2 – Report of Activities
- Item 5 – Additional New Business

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For clarity recorded in numerical order.

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1. Election of Co-Chair

The Committee agreed to postpone this item until the January 14, 2021, meeting.

2. Report of Activities

The Meeting Coordinator provided an overview of the annual Report of Activities noting it would be a record of the advisory body's accomplishments for the year, and include reference to priorities and future goals. The Committee was informed the report was to be completed by January 8, 2021.

3. Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Amal Rana
SECONDED by Juggy Sihota

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the 2021 meeting schedule as follows:

ALL THURSDAYS	Meeting Type	Meeting Room
January 14	Regular Meeting	Webex Online
February 11	Working Session	Webex Online
March 18	Regular Meeting	Webex Online
April 15	Working Session	Webex Online

All meetings to take place on Thursdays at 5:30 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Liaison Updates

Trustee Allan Wong, Vancouver School Board (VSB) Liaison, provided an overview of the following three items from the October 14, 2020, VSB meeting:

- Revisions to Policy 21 (Non-Discrimination) and Accompanying Administrative Procedures;
- Notices of Motion: Racism & Discrimination (Strategic Plan and Policy 21 Update);
- Anti-racism training for all staff.

The [minutes](#) of the meeting contain the details for the above-noted items.

Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Council Liaison, noted that COVID-19 data showed a high preponderance in the Downtown Eastside, where there is a higher indigenous population. She also informed the Committee that Metro Vancouver is hosting a series of forums on systemic racism for Metro Vancouver elected officials.

Note: The forums are livestreamed so that members of the public can also view the presentations and discussion. See [agenda page](#) for more details.

Baldwin Wong, Senior Social Planner, Staff Liaison, noted that staff from Social Policy would like to provide a presentation regarding the Social Infrastructure Strategy. He agreed to follow-up with the Chair.

5. New Business

1. Committee Team Building and Objective Setting Session and Next Steps

The Co-Chair led the discussion and suggested an upcoming working session to discuss the needs of the Committee and new objectives. He also noted the meeting would be an opportunity for Committee members to get to know one another better.

It was agreed the Committee would have an additional working session in December for Committee team building and objective setting.

2. Committee Response to VPD Neighbourhood Response Unit

The Committee discussed its response to the VPD Neighbourhood Response Unit.

MOVED by Yaron Stern
SECONDED by Juggy Sihota

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee agrees to approve to work on the VPD Neighbourhood Response Unit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Felix-Marie Badeau
SECONDED by Juggy Sihota

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee write a letter to support the Pivot Legal Society (Pivot), Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) and Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS) position and recommendations on the VPD Neighbourhood Response Unit;

FURTHER THAT the letter be sent to the VPD and Vancouver City Council, and the Committee issue a press release on this matter;

AND FURTHER THAT Juggy Sihota, Felix-Marie Badeau, Sonia Medel Borja and Amal Rana are delegated to do this work on behalf of the Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Committee Response to Anti-Semitism Motion

The Committee discussed how to proceed with Council's direction from September 2019, regarding the motion entitled "Combating Antisemitism in Vancouver", which was referred to the Committee to provide recommendations to Council on how the City of Vancouver can increase action to combat all forms of racism and hatred, including Antisemitism.

MOVED by Felix-Marie Badeau
SECONDED by Yaron Stern

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee agrees that the focus of the Working Session on December 17, 2020, will be on the motion entitled "Combating Antisemitism in Vancouver".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Race-Based Data Advocacy

The Committee discussed Race-Based data as it relates to COVID-19.

MOVED by Kevonnie Whyte
SECONDED Felix-Marie Badeau

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee write a letter on the need for Race-based Data regarding COVID-19;

FURTHER THAT the letter be sent to the BC Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver City Council, the Premier of BC, the Provincial Health Officer for the Province of BC, the BC Provincial Health Services Authority, and the BC Minister of Health;

FURTHER THAT the Committee issue a press release;

AND FURTHER THAT Bindy Kang-Dhillon, Amal Rana, Ignatius But and Kevonnie Whyte be delegated to carry out this work on behalf of the Committee.

CARRIED
(Yaron Stern opposed)

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Juggy Sihota
SECONDED by Naomi Kronitz

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: January 14, 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:36 pm.

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