



RACIAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

A meeting of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:34 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Steph Kallstrom (Chair)
Lerato Chondoma (Vice-Chair)
Stephanie Ameyaw
Gurleen Cheema
Ritu Gill
Alexandra Gunn
Austin Uzama
Dinushi Wickrama Arachchi
Kamika Williams
Mohammed Zaqout

ABSENT: Juggy Sihota (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Jean Swanson
Mumbi Maina, Social Policy, Staff Liaison
April Sumter-Freitag, Social Policy, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Brian Fukushima, Committee Clerk

WELCOME

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

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Steph Kallstrom
SECONDED by Lerato Chondoma

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve a Leave of Absence for Juggy Sihota.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Gurleen Cheema
SECONDED by Dinushi Wickrama Arachchi

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of July 14, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Liaison Updates

April Sumter-Freitag and Mumbi Maina discussed the following council reports:

- Addressing anti-Black racism: Black and African diaspora community recommendations;
- Historical Discrimination Against People of South Asian Canadian Descent; and
- Access without Fear.

2. Health Justice Presentation

Laura Johnston, Legal Director of Health Justice provided a presentation and subsequently responded to questions.

3. Actions from Presentation

The Committee discussed the possibility of writing a press release or letter of advocacy regarding the *Mental Health Act* with careful attention to the ways the law, policy, and practice could be improved to address disproportionately impacted racialized communities.

4. Staff Presentation: Vancouver Heritage Register

Emilee Lawrence, Heritage Planner provided a presentation and subsequently responded to questions.

5. Vancouver Black Library – Follow up

The Chair provided an update on the Vancouver Black Library, which opened this week and continues to seek donations and volunteers.

6. UBCIC Call For Police Reform RE: Chris Amyotte's death

MOVED by Austin Uzama
SECONDED by Lerato Chondoma

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee write a letter to Mayor and Council, the Vancouver Police Department and relevant Ministers, regarding health justice and policing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Follow up on letter RE: Black, African Diaspora Communities

The Committee discussed the report “Addressing anti-Black racism: Black and African diaspora community recommendations.”

MOVED by Lerato Chondoma

SECONDED by Dinushi Wickrama Arachchi

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee send a letter to Mayor and Council addressing their non-apology regarding anti-black racism.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. New Business

MOVED by Lerato Chondoma

SECONDED by Stephanie Ameyaw

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the annual report in principle.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Steph Kallstrom

SECONDED by Lerato Chondoma

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting: TBD

The Committee adjourned at 7:38 pm.

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