



RACIAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 7, 2023

A meeting of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 5:33 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Steph Kallstrom, Chair
Naina Varshney*, Vice-Chair
Nimrah Anwar*
Harjyot Banwait
Victoria Barclay
Alexandra Gunn
Jeanette Oostlander
Lydia Tang
Pavandeep Toor

ABSENT: Ajay Puri (Leave of Absence)
Alemu Nenko
Mo Rafiq

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Pete Fry, Council Liaison
Councillor Lenny Zhou, Council Liaison
April Sumter-Freitag, Social Policy, Staff Liaison
Benedicta Bawo, Alternate Member
Alison Fraser, Alternate Member

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Ana Denissenko, Committee Clerk
Olivia Kam, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Meeting Coordinator acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. 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 Steph Kallstrom
SECONDED by Victoria Barclay

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Ajay Puri for this meeting;

FURTHER THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Naina Varshney for the meeting on November 9, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Nimrah Anwar and Naina Varshney absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Victoria Barclay
SECONDED by Nimrah Anwar

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, July 06, 2023, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Chair/Vice-Chair Appointment

MOVED by Nimrah Anwar
SECONDED by Lydia Tang

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee appoint Steph Kallstrom as Chair for the duration of the term ending December 31, 2024;

FURTHER THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee appoint Naina Varshney as Vice-Chair for the duration of the term ending December 31, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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At this point in the meeting, Steph Kallstrom assumed the Chair.

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2. Street Naming Committee Appointment

MOVED by Steph Kallstrom
SECONDED by Nimrah Anwar

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee appoint Naina Varshney as Committee representative to the Street Naming Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. City Disaster Risk Assessment

Staff from Vancouver Emergency Management Agency provided a presentation and responded to questions.

4. Liaison Updates

The Council Liaisons provided updates.

5. Work Plan Discussion

The Committee discussed priorities and agreed to further develop a work plan at the next meeting.

Following discussion, it was

MOVED by Steph Kallstrom
SECONDED by Naina Varshney

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee request that external liaisons from the Vancouver Park Board, and the Vancouver School Board be invited to participate and provide regular updates in Committee meetings;

FURTHER THAT the Committee request an external liaison from the Vancouver Police Department to participate and provide updates in Committee meetings as appropriate and when needed to accommodate suitable VPD-related items on the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Victoria Barclay
SECONDED by Nimrah Anwar

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee form five Subcommittees and appoint members at a future meeting:

- Policing Subcommittee;
- Housing Subcommittee;
- Healthcare Subcommittee;
- Education Subcommittee; and
- Sustainability Subcommittee

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Steph Kallstrom
SECONDED by Naina Varshney

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee appoint Alison Fraser as representative to attend the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meetings in an unofficial liaison capacity.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Steph Kallstrom

SECONDED by Naina Varshney

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee request Suzie Mah as the Vancouver School Board external liaison to the Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Naina Varshney
SECONDED by Victoria Barclay

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, November 9, 2023
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:31 pm.

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