



RACIAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 14, 2019

A meeting of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 5:57 pm, in Cascadia Room, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Ignatius But, Co-Chair
Crecien Bencio, Co-Chair
Bindy Kang-Dhillon
Alexandra Gunn*
Naz Gurbuz
Anabel Lopez
Sonia Medel Borja
Amal Rana
YarOn Stern

ABSENT:

Felix-Marie Badeau
Naomi Kronitz (Leave of Absence)
Nikki Koutsochilis
Rei Ga-Wun Leung (Leave of Absence)
Juggy Sihota (Leave of Absence)
Kevonnie Whyte (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Council Liaison
Trustee Allan Wong, School Board Liaison
Baldwin Wong, Senior Social Planner, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:

Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator
Rowena Choi, Meeting Coordinator
Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The 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 Amal Rana
SECONDED by YarOn Stern

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve leaves of absences for Naomi Kronitz, Rei Ga-Wun Leung, Juggy Sihota and Kevonnie Whyte.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Alexandra Gunn absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Amal Rana
SECONDED by YarOn Stern

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of September 5, 2019, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Alexandra Gunn absent for the vote)

1. Election of Co-Chair

MOVED by YarOn Stern
SECONDED by Amal Rana

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee appoint Crecien Bencio as Co-Chair until December 31, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Alexandra Gunn absent for the vote)

2. Group Agreement

Crecien Bencio, Co-Chair, reviewed the draft Group Agreement and noted that the document will not be finalized until the Committee's December 5, 2019, Working Session. Ignatius But, Co-Chair, reminded Committee members to continue to provide suggestions to Crecien for items to be included in the final Group Agreement.

3. Committee Name

Ignatius But, Co-Chair, introduced the item and engaged the Committee in discussion on whether or not the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee should begin the process of potentially recommending to Council the change of the Committee's name. Committee members spoke about the importance of having the Committee's name properly reflect what the Committee has been appointed to achieve, while recognizing its history and future. Committee members also raised concerns surrounding the Committee's tight timeline to

achieve numerous other objectives, and how the Committee's name changing process might affect that timeline. Amal Rana, noted that the process of recommending to Council the change of the Committee's name would become embedded within the Committee's objectives and would not take away from other priorities.

Following discussion, it was

MOVED by YarOn Stern
SECONDED by Ignatius But

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee begin the process of recommending to Council the change of the Committee's name.

CARRIED
(Alexandra Gunn and Naz Gurbuz opposed)

Crecien Bencio, Co-Chair, volunteered to lead the Committee's name changing process, and YarOn Stern volunteered to assist.

4. Work Plan and Subcommittee Formation

Ignatius But, Co-Chair, reviewed the Committee's objectives and work plan, as previously discussed at the Committee's Working Session on October 24, 2019.

MOVED by Ignatius But
SECONDED by Amal Rana

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the creation of the following four Subcommittees:

- Outreach;
- Combatting Racism;
- Internal Learning/Evaluation; and
- Empowering Racialized Communities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Subsequently, in a workshop format, the Committee volunteered for the different Subcommittees.

5. Liaison Updates

a) School Board Liaison Update

Trustee Allan Wong noted the following motion that the Vancouver School Board approved at their meeting on October 28, 2019:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Trustees of the Vancouver Board of Education (VSB) direct the Superintendent of Schools to create a strategic plan that includes short (1 year), medium (3 year) and long term (5 year) actions that the district will take to address

racism and discrimination in Vancouver Schools. An interim report to be presented at the June 3, 2020 Policy & Governance Committee meeting.

Additionally, Trustee Wong announced that as part of the Vancouver School Board's continuous work on combatting racism within schools, the position of the Anti-Racism Mentor has been created and filled since September 2019; this position will work with students and teachers to bring forward programs organized at school-level raising anti-racism awareness.

b) Council Liaison Update

Firstly, Councillor Kirby-Yung took a moment to thank the Committee members for volunteering for the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee, and highlighted the importance of the work that this Committee has embarked on as it is very prevalent on a city level and in a global context.

Councillor Kirby-Yung announced that on November 14, 2019, the City of Vancouver launched the engagement process of Planning Vancouver Together, previously known as the City-wide Plan, and encouraged Committee members to participate in the dialogue.

Lastly, Councillor Kirby-Yung reminded Committee members of the joint advisory committee meeting on November 27, 2019, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, discussing the motion entitled "Revisiting the Random Ballot for Equity's Sake", as approved by Council at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on July 24, 2019; noting that the Committee is one of the committees that the motion requested staff engage with.

c) Staff Liaison Update

Baldwin Wong, Staff Liaison, reminded Committee members that they are invited to attend the joint advisory committee meeting on November 26, 2019, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, to discuss upcoming engagement for the Vancouver Plan and the Broadway Plan.

Staff noted the creation of the new Equity and Diversity Office as part of the City Manager's Office, which will be working to create an equitable, diverse and inclusive community at the City of Vancouver.

Staff announced that the Province of BC has recently provided support to the City of Vancouver in the establishment of a Chinese Canadian Museum. The museum is part of a joint effort by the Province of BC and the City of Vancouver to have the city's Chinatown designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Staff encouraged Committee members to visit the museum's new project office which is located in the same Chinatown building as the Chinese-Canadian Military Museum.

6. New Business

a) Next Working Session

Ignatius But, Co-Chair, noted that the next Working Session will focus on the Subcommittees discussing actionable items, which will be presented to the Committee as a whole at the meeting on January 16, 2020. Staff noted that the City staff team working on the Places for People Downtown – Public Space and Life Strategy will be giving a presentation and seeking feedback

from the Committee at their next Working Session, in preparation of the staff report going to Council in January 2020.

b) Committee Member Updates

Sonia Medel Borja proposed the Committee's potential involvement in creating a publicly televised forum engaging with people from different cultural diasporas where collecting their voices together can create a better opportunity for expression and diminishing of assumptions. Committee members requested more information on the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Alexandra Gunn
SECONDED by Bindy Kang-Dhillon

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Working Session:

DATE: Thursday, December 5, 2019
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room
3rd Floor, City Hall

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2020
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room
2nd Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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