MINUTES
IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 11, 2010 - 6:30 pm
Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre


Also Present: Maxine Carter, Jaffar Hayat - Access & Equity Division, City of Hamilton; Laurie Maladin – OW, CoH

Regrets: Liban Abdi, Jaswinder Bedi, Rabelani Makwarela, Jitendra Shukla, Ismail Ibrahim

Absent: Aisha Minhas, Samia Qadims, Arvind Sahay

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.
None declared.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.
All were welcomed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.
   • Acceptance of the agenda as amended.
   • 5.1 Susan Power and Mary Agro, Human Resources, COH regarding workforce census
   • 5.2 Tim Rees and Jahan Zeb, LIPC
   • Addition of 7.1 HCCI Education Series

   (S. Kovac/D. Hosten)
   To accept the agenda, as amended.

   CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
   • Minutes of December 10, 2009 were approved as presented

   (A. Ayrton/S. Kovac)
   To accept the minutes December 10, 2009, as presented.

   CARRIED

Revised March 11, 2010
5. BUSINESS ITEMS.

• 5.1 Presentation – Susan Powers & Mary Agro, Human Resource, COH regarding feedback on questions used in workforce census.

Mary Agro provided an overview of the purchasing process at the City and how the vendor was selected. She also gave an overview of the workforce census questionnaire that will be administered to staff in the fall. The census was developed using the Stats Canada Census track.

She asked for feedback regarding a few questions. Committee members felt that some of the descriptors were not accurate such as reflected in ethnic and culture questions.

Committee understood the purpose of the questions but asked to her to develop a more concise and correct definition of ethnic background as it relates to the question.

Committee thanked staff for considering their input.

• 5.2 Follow up on the Local Immigration Partnership Council - report to Council.

  • Tim Rees reviewed briefly the discussion paper released by the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council.
  • Tim Rees invited committee members to share any feedback regarding the discussion paper.
  • Committee noted that the LIPC is not well known to the community, individual Councillors and other sectors of community. More emphasis be put on working with and including City officials.

Committee thanked Tim Rees and Jahan Zeb.

• 5.3 Work Plan & Priorities Setting.

  5.3.1 Successful Immigration Strategies Update – D. Hosten.

  • David and Monique provided an update of their progress regarding Immigration Strategies from Mississauga, Brampton, Kitchener/Waterloo and Peel Region
  • Sub-Committee will work on preparing a summary of the 3 regions for the March meeting.

  5.3.2 Community Connections – Samer Salmon.

  • Committee did not meet with past month but plan to meet before the next meeting.
• Samer requested a list of Citizenship Ceremony dates from CIC.

5.4 Review and comment on reports, legislation, studies.
• No items were table for this meeting.

6. Correspondence/Current Affairs.
No items were tabled this month.

7.1 HCCI Education Series. N. Sarwar
• Nasir shared promotional material with committee regarding the HCCI – Community Public Lecture Series

8. Adjournment.
(D. Hosten/S. Salman)
Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

CARRIED.