1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None Declared.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members and resource staff were welcomed by Rebecca and introduced.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

5.4 Saadia El Ouardi
5.5 Request for a delegation (Carol Ann)
5.6 Tsunami Relief Task Force
5.7 Membership (Carol Ann)

And under Correspondence Letter of Resignation Paul Bassi and Chamber of Commerce information.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/NOTES

Deferred to the next meeting.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS
5.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Moved by Mel, seconded by Chrisroy that this item be tabled until next meeting with an understanding that the information discussed January 13 would be recapped. Carried.

There was a question of building in a need for 2-way communication within the Terms of Reference between Council and this Committee.

5.2 WORKPLAN

There was discussion on having a job fair as part of the work plan. Agreed to support existing job fair. Agreed to await the finalization of the Terms of Reference before completing Work plan, especially with respect to employment. The Chamber of Commerce provides employment resources. Also suggested that this committee should be aware of community events related to this Committee.

5.3 Hamilton Port of Entry (Service Delivery Models)

A staff report is to be presented to the Public Health and Community Services Committee meeting in April, 2005. The committee reviewed the statistics from CIC. Discussed secondary migration into but also out of Hamilton. 1/3 more migration of them out of the City is the suggestion from Social Services. Also discussed how entrepreneurs are leaving Hamilton – real need to invite these opportunities. Hamilton looking at Culture policy and diversity to encourage jobs and economic development. Consider this subject as part of the work plan. What role does City of Hamilton ensure that services are meeting the needs of the community - coordination of services? There were questions about RAP money; can it be extended for more than 1 year?

Agreed to establish sub-committee consisting of Mohamed, Mel, Chrisroy, Ken and Basma to evolve a response for the PH&SCS meeting.

5.4 Saadia El Ouardi

An overview was presented by Kevin on this recent event. Woman was deported to Morocco after her refugee claim was denied. She is married to a permanent resident (refugee from Bosnia) and she took her Canadian child to Morocco.

5.5 Request for a Delegation

Carol Ann asked how different cultures provide and make request for a delegation to this Committee from the Healthy Living Taskforce.
5.6  Tsunami Relief Task Force

Rebecca as Chair of the ACIR has been requested to be a representative on this Task Force. The meeting discussed twinning relationships. There was concern raised that fundraising for this event would have a negative affect on ongoing programs.

5.7  Membership

Mel moved and seconded by Chrisroy that the Secretary should confirm the membership of the committee.

6.  CORRESPONDENCE / CURRENT AFFAIRS

Denise indicated that the Chamber of Commerce was providing a series of seminars for small and medium businesses to focus on new Canadians and employment. In May there will be mentoring programs.

A letter of resignation with regrets was received from Paul Bassi, as he has been re-assigned within CIC. There is an indication that Paul will be replaced by other CIC staff.

7.  ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.
MINUTES: Advisory Committee on Immigrants & Refugees
Thursday, March 10, 2005 – 6:45 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main St. West, Room 219

Present:
- Chris Garwood
- Rehana Khanam
- Gurpreet Dipak
- Ken Huang
- Rebecca Yanyan Xu (Chair)

Also Present:
- Denise Doyle (Chamber of Commerce)
- Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Kevin Beattie, Secretary

Regrets:
- Roo Alvi, Yang Wu, Caroll Hill (Ontario Works), Morteza Jafarpour (SISO)

Absent:
- Tariq Siddiqi, Arshad Kanth, Sonia Suavita

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None Declared.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members and resource staff were welcomed by Rebecca and introduced.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:
- 5.4 Tsunami Hamilton Relief Task Force
- 5.5 Civic Centre
And under Correspondence – Citizen Protection

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/NOTES

Deferred to the next meeting.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS
5.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Discussed item 3 on Jan 13 – agreed to change to “To facilitate, organize and promote presentations”
Item 4 to read “To facilitate and foster .. by the encouragement of socialization and development of networks.
Item 6 was discussed. From the previous Terms of Reference, Item 5 is to become Item 2 on the new list. As well from the previous list Item 6 is now Item 1. Moved by Mel to accept the revised Terms of Reference (to be provided by Maxine) and seconded by Chrisroy. Carried.

5.2 WORKPLAN

Tabled to a separate meeting.

5.3 REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON Hamilton’s INVOLVEMENT WITH IMMIGRATION

Considerable discussion on service co-ordination. Denise indicated a number of employment services are being closed. Discussed 6(a) of Sub-committee report and wording and dissatisfaction with service providers. Questioned whether 1 year of funding is sufficient-should be expanded to 2 years. Questioned ESL programs. Committee members are asked to respond within 1 week of e-mail on the revised report from the sub-committee on this issue. Moved by Chrisroy, seconded by Mohamad. Carried. Maxine has indicated that she has advised the Standing Committee staff that the ACIR is interested in being involved.

(Post-meeting note - the Social and Public Health Services Committee has listed this issue as outstanding and should be before the committee September 13, 2005.)

5.4 TSUNAMI HAMILTON RELIEF TASK FORCE

Gurpreet has volunteered to represent this Committee on this Task Force.

5.5 CIVIC CENTRE

Denise will forward to the Secretary for distribution the details about the new Civic Centre.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / CURRENT AFFAIRS

The First Safe Haven of the Citizen Protection Project is opening at the St. Joseph’s Women’s Immigrant Centre on March 21, 2005 at 3:00 pm.

Noted receipt of an e-mail from Sandra Wilson who submitted her resignation with regrets.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
City of Hamilton

REVISED

MINUTES: Advisory Committee on Immigrants & Refugees
Thursday, April 14, 2004 – 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main St. West, Room 219

Present: Rebecca Yanyan Xu, Carolann Fernandes, Gurpreet Dipak, Ken Huang, Mohamad Husam, Basma Daoud, Roo Alvi

Also Present: Maxine Carter, Elfadil Elsharief, Jane Lee, Carol Hill, Judy Lee-Wu, CIC and Rod Munn, CIC

Regrets: Chrisroy Garwood, Mel Madamba-Wakeham, Rehana Khanam

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Rebecca welcomed all those in attendance, and each person introduced themselves. Larry Wells of the Oakville District Labour Council was also welcomed to the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(Gurpreet/Mohamad)
That the agenda be approved. CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES /NOTES

The Committee noted that they are still waiting for the minutes of the February meeting for approval, and deferred them to the next meeting.

5. It was noted that under Item 6 - Correspondence / Current Affairs in the March 10, 2005 be amended to read:

The First Safe Haven of the Citizen Protection Project is opening at the St. Joseph’s Women’s Immigrant Centre on March 21, 2005 at 3:00 pm.

(Gurpreet/Mohamad)
That the minutes be approved as amended. CARRIED.
6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1 Terms of Reference
The Terms of Reference were reviewed.

(Gurpreet/Carolann)
That the Terms of Reference be approved. CARRIED.

6.2 Workplan
The draft workplan was reviewed and input provided to the specific activities. The following points were also considered:

- Need for job shadowing opportunities, apprenticeships, mentorships, internships, volunteer job opportunities
- Promoting the work and existence of the committee
- Need for a job fair for immigrant and refugee workers
- Discussion about partnering with job fairs already taking place in the City (HRSD, City, Chamber of Commerce, etc)
- Translation services should be evenly distributed throughout City
- Information package (Newcomers Guide) needs to be disseminated through City Committee
- ESL classes need to take place in workplaces to learn the language of work
- A City plan is required to address business immigrants so that when they come to Hamilton to live, they will invest here
- Discussion about the need for funding or grants to encourage some of these ideas (City, HRSD, Canadian Heritage)

Specific matters revised were as follows:

Activities:

6.2.1 Translation services should be evenly distributed throughout City. Information needs to be disseminated through City Committee.

6.2.2 Career Development Centre opened March 30, 2005. Could get a tour for the Committee.

6.2.3 OW & HRSD & Chamber of Commerce – Job Fair
Carol Hill will look into this, i.e. find out what job fairs are coming up, find a contact for committee.
ACI&R should meet with individuals who develop job fairs.

6.2.4 Develop a committee brochure to disseminate to community.
6.2.5 Apprentices, work shadowing

A Sub-committee was established to further work on the workplan – Maxine, Mohamad, Ken and Rebecca

6.3 Report of the Sub-committee on Hamilton’s Involvement with Immigration

Chrisroy, Mohamad, Mel, Ken, Basma to revisit and revise. Mohamad to call Chrisroy to plan date.

6.4 Civic Centre – tabled to next meeting

6.5 Tsunami Relief Task Force

Jane Lee gave an update.

7 CORRESPONDENCE / CURRENT AFFAIRS

SISO Breakfast – Fundraiser for Tsunami, 7:00 to 8:30 a.m.
June 20, 2005 – National Aboriginal Day
June 1, 2005 – National Homophobia Day
May 1, 2005 – May Day WAHC
April 28, 2005 – International Day of Mourning for Workers Injured/Killed on the job
City Hall 11:00 a.m.

8 ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Present: Rebecca Yanyan Xu, Carolann Fernandes, Chrisroy Garwood, Ken Huang, Mel Madamba-Wakeham, Rehana Khanam, Roo Alvi

Also Present: Maxine Carter, Carol Hill, Judy Lee-Wu, CIC

Regrets: Gurpreet Dipak, Basma Daoud, Mohamad Husam, Denise Doyle (Chamber of Commerce), Jane Lee

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
   Nil

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
   Rebecca welcomed all those in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   (Ken/Mel)
   That the agenda be approved. CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES /NOTES
   The Committee noted that the February 10 minutes need to be amended to reflect that Carol and Chrisroy were present. Moved by Roo, seconded by Mel that the Feb 10 minutes be approved as amended. Carried.

   Discussed the April 14/05 minutes, noted that Judy’s last name is Lee-Wu. Also Item 6.2 had some discussion to clarify the points. Maxine agreed to clarify and update. Moved by Ken, seconded by Roo to approve amended Minutes for April 14. Carried.

   Business arising from the minutes, Carol noted the various employment opportunities and activities, Bev Penfold from HRSD, SISO has a job Fair, the Career Development Centre at 181 Main Street West (Main and Hess) discussed possibility of tour of this facility, possibly before the June meeting.
5. BUSINESS ITEMS

5.1 WORKPLAN – Reviewed workplan. Discussed how information to be communicated to the communities – perhaps through the media. Agreed to regroup activities between Employment and Outreach. The Committee went through in detail items 1 & 2 of the Workplan. Agreed to defer the balance of the workplan details for Committee members to fill in the blanks.

5.2 REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE – The sub-committee had requested more information for the June 9th meeting from staff.

5.3 CIVIC CENTRE – Agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / CURRENT AFFAIRS

Several announcements were noted: SISO Job Fair May 19; Hamilton Asian Community Centre – Healthy Living, Healthy Eating, May 21; Bridging the Rainbow May 14; May is South Asian Heritage Month; 2004 Women of the Year Awards – May 31.

Parking Permits were distributed for June, July, August and September 2005 meetings.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 9:12 p.m.