



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD
PROCEEDINGS OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**DEIAC 6-2024
Thursday, November 7, 2024
Video Conference**

Committee Members Present: Councillors D'Angela & O'Hare; J. Desroches, H. McLean, D. Nsafoah, T. Schilstra

Regrets: A. Foster, C. Macpherson, R. Nand (Committee Chair), M. Poudel, S. Qazi (Committee Vice Chair)

Staff Present: N. Debono, City Clerk

1. Call to Order

Since the Committee Chair and Vice Chair were not present for the meeting, and there being no objections, Councillor O'Hare assumed the Chair.

Acting Committee Chair O'Hare called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Acting Committee Chair O'Hare read the land acknowledgement.

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor D'Angela

Seconded by: J. Desroches

That Agenda DEIAC 6-2024, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

CARRIED

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 DEIAC 5-2024

September 5, 2024

Moved by: J. Desroches

Seconded by: D. Nsafoah

That Minutes DEIAC 5-2024, being the minutes of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held on September 5, 2024, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Correspondence

6.1 Committee Appointment

Acting Committee Chair O'Hare advised that at their meeting on September 10, 2024, Council appointed Heather McLean, Manju Kumari Poudel, and Terence R. Schilstra to the Committee. H. McLean and T. Schilstra introduced themselves.

6.2 Days of Significance

Acting Committee Chair O'Hare advised regarding the attached days of significance for October and November 2024.

7. Committee Business

7.1 Policy Working Group

There was no update provided on this item.

7.2 Workplan/Strategic Plan Working Group

There was no update provided on this item.

7.3 Accessible Entrances

Acting Committee Chair O'Hare provided an overview of the Stop Gap program and advised that he met with the Business Improvement Area (BIA) regarding locations that could benefit from the program. He further advised that the BIA was supportive of the program and that a proposal can be brought to Council for consideration of a potential pilot project for 2025.

7.4 DEIAC-C 2-2024

2025 Committee Meeting Schedule

Moved by: Councillor D'Angela

Seconded by: T. Schilstra

That the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meetings **BE HELD** on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates in 2025: January 16, March 6, May 1, July 10, September 11, November 6.

CARRIED

8. Roundtable Discussion

T. Schilstra advised regarding accessibility concerns at the crosswalk at Pine Street South and Sullivan Avenue. Councillor D'Angela provided more information about the crosswalk and that this crosswalk has been a topic for the Road Safety Advisory Committee. Councillor O'Hare recommended this topic appear on a future Committee agenda.

T. Schilstra enquired regarding the Thorold state of emergency regarding homelessness. Councillor O'Hare advised that the Niagara Region is looking at the issue and the City is supporting the Region. Councillor D'Angela advised that the City encourages developers to include affordable housing in new builds.

J. Desroches enquired if the Committee can assist with the food scarcity issue in the community. H. McLean recommended inviting Community Care Thorold to present at a future meeting regarding this topic. Councillor D'Angela advised regarding food giveaways from a local anonymous donor and the work that was done with Community Care Thorold. The Committee discussed demographics of Thorold and that culturally appropriate food should be considered.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2025.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Councillor O'Hare
Acting Committee Chair

Justin Letourneau
Legislative & Municipal Elections
Coordinator

Nicholas Debono
City Clerk