

## Minutes - Race Relations Advisory Committee

June 16, 2020 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

### Woodstock Police Headquarters

In attendance: Jaspreet Sandhu, Jessica Hofstetter, Hannah Hodder, Marci Shelton, Mohamed Ismail, Ruth Blass, Jag Rai, Daryl Longworth

#### 1. Welcome and introductions.

Daryl welcomed everyone and then we went around the room with each person provided a brief introduction of their background, what they hope this committee could accomplish and what they think they can contribute.

#### 2. Vision and Brainstorming

Daryl talked about a desire to have this community inform the police on how they can do better, to assist police in developing procedures, training and a Diversity Plan that will lay out a plan for training, recruiting and providing a better service to the community. Overall, everyone wants to help the police accomplish that but also promote change, engage the community, let others in the community know that they are here.

Who is missing? - Indigenous and youth

Everyone will reach out to see if there are local Indigenous and youth who would want to be a part of the committee. Marci will check with School Resource Officers for ideas as well.

Idea was brought up about possibility of sending something through the schools advising that this committee exists and inviting young people to apply through an essay.

There was discussion about inviting other diverse groups who did not necessarily represent ethnic diversity. After some discussion it was felt that this committee should focus on issues related to diversity based on ethnicity, culture and race as they are unique and that perhaps other committees could be formed to engage with other diverse groups.

Jag challenged the group to establish a goal and not deviate from it. If our goal is to assist the police then we should stick to that.

Daryl went back to his goal being to informing the police on how they can get better at engaging and providing services to the community. Perhaps some of the other things expressed by other members could be spin offs such as cultural festivals, engaging the public in larger forums, etc.

#### 3. Committee name

Ruth brought up “United Against Equality” as a potential name.

#### 4. Next steps and timelines?

- Terms of reference

Daryl will develop a draft Terms of Reference based on conversation today that speak to the goal, mandate, roles and responsibilities, membership, and deliverables. This will be used as a starting point to be further discussed/adopted by the group.

Daryl encouraged others to consider volunteering to be a co-chair with police so that this was not just police led committee but was truly collaborative. He asked for those interested to send him an email.

- Future meetings

Consensus was that the 230pm time frame worked best for everyone and that monthly meetings would be good to start.

Daryl will arrange for another doodle poll to select the next meeting date.

Everyone agreed to sharing their emails with the rest of the group.

Hannah and Jaspreet asked about sharing the fact that this committee exists and it was agreed that this would be a good thing. It was discussed that both Heart FM and the Sentinel Review have covered the fact that the committee was starting.

Is there a need for a media release?