

Minutes of a Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality held via Electronic Communications in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, commencing at 5:30 PM.

Present:

Jason Beck, Chair
Mitchel Bowers, Vice Chair
Tammy Jackson
Luay Eljamal
Keith McGrath, Councillor

Absent:

Chantelle Tatum

Administration:

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, Legislative Services
Toni Elliott, Senior Manager, Community and Protective Services
Caitlin Downie, Department Administrator, Neighbourhood & Community Development
Caitlin Sheaves, Clerk, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Chair Jason Beck called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mitchel Bowers
SECONDER:	Tammy Jackson
FOR:	Jackson, Bowers, Beck, Eljamal
ABSENT:	Tatum

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1. Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality (RACIDE) Meeting - February 17, 2021

MOTION:

THAT the minutes of the Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality meeting held on February 17, 2021 be accepted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Luay Eljamal
SECONDER:	Mitchel Bowers
FOR:	Jackson, Bowers, Beck, Eljamal
ABSENT:	Tatum

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Diversity and Inclusion Community Plan Progress Report

Caitlin Downie, Department Administrator, provided an overview of the Diversity and Inclusion Community Plan Progress Report, including the various areas that continue to be worked on such as accessibility of spaces, financial support and training and education. Next steps were outlined noting that there is work being undertaken toward completion of the following goals: Effective Communication, Diverse Voices Involved and Engaged, Recognize and Celebrate Diversity, Increase Awareness and Understanding, Foster Trust and Collaboration and Reduce Barriers.

Action Item:

A discussion occurred with respect to the accessibility audit and through consensus of the Committee, this initiative was identified as a priority. Administration indicated that a collaborative discussion would occur with the Wood Buffalo Regional Inclusive Committee (RIC) on this matter and information will be provided back to the Committee at a future meeting.

Action Item:

Through discussion the Committee requested that an action log be maintained by the Department with respect to items being discussed and requested at Committee meetings.

4.2. Working Group Updates

Anti-Racism Working Group:

Caitlin Downie, Department Administrator, provided an update on the recommendations that were previously provided by the Committee. It was noted that the Committee Bylaw amendment is in progress and a draft is currently being reviewed.

It was advised that further support is being developed for Black and Indigenous led initiatives, as well as further discussion with the Multicultural Association on development of an Anti-Racism training program.

Accessibility Working Group:

Caitlin Downie, Department Administrator, provided an update on behalf of the Accessibility Working Group. Communications and Legislative Services continue to work towards providing accessible information to the public through the Municipal website and Council meeting procedures and participation. Emergency Management provided an update on food services during emergency activations, where it was indicated that alternative dietary options will be provided. Additionally, information was provided on the new emergency alert app that will be helpful to residents who may be deaf or hearing impaired.

5. Round Table

Chair Jason Beck advised that Waypoints is hosting a St. Patrick's Day music night on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, as well as their 50/50 event which can be found via the Waypoints website and social media pages.

Committee Member Mitchel Bowers advised that Pride YMM will be hosting a virtual Trans Day Awareness Panel on March 31, 2021.

Nicole Spring, Regional Inclusion Committee representative and public member in attendance, advised that April is Autism Awareness month, and the Wood Buffalo Autism Society will be hosting various events, which can be found via the Society's website and social media pages.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Chair