
Meeting Minutes

Anti-Black Racism Working Group

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 10:00 am

In-person – Pickering Central Library, One the Esplanade

Note, in lieu of the regular meeting, this meeting was arranged as an in-person meet and greet, and tour of the Central Library. As such, the regular meeting format was altered, and some standing agenda items were deferred to the November meeting for follow up.

Attendees: Marsha Hinds-Layne (Vice Chair), Shaibu Gariba, Teronie Donaldson, Nicole Facey, Charmain Brown, Bernadette Hood-Caesar, Romina Diaz

Library Staff: Sabrina Yung, Shobha Oza

Absent: Stephen Linton (Chair), Titi Katibi, Samantha Adebisi

1. Meet and Greet

2. Tour of the Central Library

- SY led the group on a tour of the Central Library. Key spaces explored:
 - Maker Space
 - Children's Area
 - Multimedia Collection (CDs, DVDs, Video Games)
 - Teen and Seniors Area
 - Large Print Collection and Accessible Reading Station
 - Collaborative Rooms
 - Second Floor Study Carrels
 - Local History Room
 - 'The Set' (Staff Filming Studio)
 - Auditorium
- The group would like to learn more about the online services and tools, and so we discussed arranging an online library tour. SY will look into this with staff.
- The additional and optional George Ashe Library tour will take place on Wednesday, October 19. Email sent to the group for confirming attendance.

3. ABRWG Part of Events Conversation Group Debrief

- Post-tour, the group sat down to conduct a debrief in preparation for the November meeting, where we anticipate the Events team to return for part 2 of the events conversation.
- Printed copies of the part 1 presentation were provided.

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- **Some key points raised:**
 - It has been observed that youth are here every day. What programs can be offered to be responsive to this? Does not have to involve a facilitator or formal setup. Would like to see some passive engagement and support. Apples? Refreshments? Particularly consider youth that may benefit from food resources.
 - Connect with partners from different African and Caribbean groups local to Durham.
 - Promote events through more external stakeholders to increase the reach of the library's advertising.
 - What programs do you offer for youth to learn about the Local History Room? That is a service point that seems lesser known and youth could benefit from. Local History Room focused Tik Tok or social media reels could be used to promote youth interest.
 - Maker Space, also could use Tik Tok to showcase what programs and services are being offered. Spotlight what youth are creating in Maker Space programs or in general.
 - Program suggestions:
 - Conflict management for youth
 - Programs that highlight the collections that reflect diverse community and experiences
 - Programs that recommend taking action with others – support through advocacy, allyship
 - Work with partners such as Jamaican Canadian Association
 - Food related programming for youth, particularly after school,
 - Consider how are we reaching users beyond libraries and non-library users. SY shared a bit about the outreach work the library current conducts, noting the pandemic has impacted the opportunities in the community. However, as more service providers return to in person services and events, the library outreach team has been getting back out into the community. With that said, SY noted that we believe there are always new service providers and community spaces we can engage and get into, to promote library services. Local community group suggestions from the group would be helpful.
 - 4. Youth Subcommittee Update (5 minutes)
 - No update shared.
 - 5. Other Business (10 minutes)
 - No additional business items tabled.