

Meeting Minutes

Anti-Black Racism Working Group

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 6:30 pm

In Person – Central Library Auditorium

Attendees: Romina Diaz (via Zoom), Samantha Adebisi, Charmain Brown, Shaibu Gariba, Marsha Hinds Myrie (via Zoom), Nicole Facey, Teronie Donaldson, Stephen Linton (via Zoom)

Library Staff: Shobha Oza, Sabrina Yung, Clara Addo-Bekoe

Absent: Titi Katibi, Bernadette Hood-Caesar

1. Land Acknowledgement and Ancestral Acknowledgement
 - Read by Sabrina and Charmain.
2. Conflict of Interest Declaration (Standing Agenda Item)
 - No conflicts of interest declared.
3. Regroup and Restoration Continued
 - As determined during the August meeting, this meeting will focus on reviewing the Terms of Reference (TOR) with the intention of identifying shared understanding on scope and to identify any further revisions needed.
 - CAB has joined the group today as facilitator. This will also allow SY and SO to fully participate in the discussions as well.
 - Members took time to read through the existing TOR.
 - Sections 2 (Mission) and 6 (Boundaries and Scope) were reviewed.
 - Clarification was added/revised pertaining to the scope of the ABRWG, as follows:
 - “Members of the ABRWG are volunteers who provide feedback, observations, insights, and recommendations *exclusively on library related matters.*”
 - “The ABRWG is not responsible for actioning identified *staff deliverables*”.
 - Members discussed the scope and/or responsibility of the ABRWG when a ‘call to action’ is circulating in the community and/or brought forward to the ABRWG specifically. As a result, the following amendment was added:
 - “*ABRWG members may bring forward issues related to anti-Black racism from the wider community to the Library to explore how the Library may support advocacy efforts.*”

- MHM requested the minutes record that MHM does not agree with the group's decisions regarding the scope of the ABRWG.
- There remains additional items on the TOR that require further discussion and review, however the group agreed to defer to the next meeting for further discussion. Members are encouraged to continue to note them and bring them back to the next meeting for further discussion, with hopes that we can come to a consensus.
- SY will send a working draft to the group, reflecting today's noted edits.

4. Sharing the Work of the ABRWG

- SY shared that PPL has been selected to present about the ABRWG at the Public Library Association conference in 2024, taking place in Ohio. More information to come.

5. The International Day for People of African Descent

- A reminder that all ABRWG members are invited and encouraged to attend the August 31st event taking place in Esplanade Park.
- PABRT has taken lead on the event coordination and the library will be facilitating two components – an information booth promoting the work of the ABRWG and a youth t-shirt painting consultation activity.
- Members are welcome to attend for as long as they are available and will be invited to join Library staff at either station, to engage with community members.

6. October Meeting

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the October meeting date has been postponed by one week to October 18.
- As discussed today, we will meet in-person to finalize the TOR discussions and with the intention of returning to the Work Plan and regular business in November.