
Meeting Minutes

Anti-Black Racism Working Group

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 6:30 pm

Online – Zoom

Attendees: Charmain Brown (Notetaker), Marsha Hinds Myrie, Nicole Facey, Romina Diaz-Matus, Teronie Donaldson

Library Staff: Shobha Oza, Sabrina Yung

Absent: Bernadette Hood-Caesar, Samantha Adebisi, Titi Katibi

1. Land Acknowledgement and Ancestral Acknowledgement
 - Read by SY and RDM.
 - SO shared the participation of RDM and others as a delegate at the City of Pickering Council Meeting on February 26, 2024, regarding recent comments made by Councillor Lisa Robinson about Black History Month.
2. Conflict of Interest Declaration
 - No conflicts declared.
3. Review Meeting Minutes
 - February minutes reviewed.
 - No edits were tabled. February minutes were approved.
4. March Library Board Meeting Presentation
 - Discussion took place as to whom would be attending the upcoming Library Board meeting in-person to represent the ABRWG. All members are invited and encouraged to attend in-person alongside the presenters.
 - SY will send a calendar appointment. Contact SY if you need a Zoom link.
 - SY reviewed the 2024 Work Plan and 2023 Year-End Progress Summary. The group ensured it is accurately communicating the ongoing collaborative work. Note, the progress summary is missing some details from the Events section. This should be completed in the coming days. A new copy will be sent to the group once finalized. Both documents will be shared with the Board ahead of the meeting, with the expectation that the Board members view the two documents prior to the ABRWG presentation.
 - The presenter is invited to share a few remarks and reflections on behalf of the group. No expectation to walk through the two documents as the Board would have read them in advance. The Board may have some questions and/or comments for the presenter. Total time will be approximately 10 minutes.
 - CB and RDM volunteered to present at the Library Board meeting.

5. Preparing for May Activity

- As noted on the 2024 Work Plan and in response to previous discussions about ABRWG members spending more time in-person observing the client experience, in lieu of the May ABRWG monthly meeting, members will visit Pickering library locations (Central, George Ashe, and Claremont). The goal is to experience in-person, the various services available.
- The group discussed the various things to observe, and the feedback sought.
- Members are encouraged to explore the library at different times and days of the week, as the experience can vary.
- Members are welcome to coordinate with other ABRWG members or visit with individuals in their own personal networks (and include their feedback too).
- Observations are to be documented and forwarded to SY by end of May. SY will collate in preparation for conversations and identifying themes at the June ABRWG meeting.
- TD proposed communicating and connecting as a group more, outside of the formal meeting space. Library visits may be a good opportunity for ABRWG members to meet in-person and strengthen relationships. The group agreed. TD will send a Doodle poll to the group for those interested in visiting the library with other ABRWG members.

6. Public Library Association (PLA) Conference 2024

- In April, SY will be bringing the work of the ABRWG forward and sharing a modified version of the presentation facilitated by CB, SA and SY back in February 2023.
- SY expressed appreciation to CB and SA for supporting the presentation through live streaming/recordings.
- PLA is attended by public library professionals from across the United States and Canada. SY looks forward to reporting back after the conference.

Next Meeting: April 10 @ 6:30 pm (online)