
Meeting Minutes

Anti-Black Racism Working Group

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 6:30 pm

Online – Zoom

Attendees: Charmain Brown (Notetaker), Marsha Hinds Myrie, Nicole Facey, Samantha Adebiji, Teronie Donaldson

Library Staff: Shobha Oza, Sabrina Yung, Shahin Dashtkian, Chloe Stoyanovski, Ky Graham

Absent: Romina Diaz-Matus, Bernadette Hood-Caesar

1. Land Acknowledgement and Ancestral Acknowledgement
 - SY welcomed the group and read the Land Acknowledgement
 - TD read the Ancestral Acknowledgement
2. Conflict of Interest Declaration
 - No conflicts declared.
3. Review Meeting Minutes
 - June meeting minutes were reviewed
 - No edits or changes were expressed.
4. Events Recommendations Progress Update/Teen Survey Action Plan Update/Introduction to Teen Services Staff
 - SD provided a detailed progress update on the Event's team ABRWG recommendations work plan.
 - Over 80 events have taken place in the last 7 to 9 months.
 - In 2024, 150 community organizations have partnered with PPL regarding events including several organizations that honour and affirm anti-Black racism (ABR) and anti-Indigeneity.
 - As well, in 2024, 10 events supporting anti-Black racism have taken place outside of Black History Month (February).
 - Changes in staffing allowed for more capacity to better reach out to and support the relationship building with Black community partners.
 - Teen Survey Action Plan Update
 - An affirming space for all teens has continued to be made available.
 - KG has been encouraging teens to participate in the current Teen Survey and has received feedback once a personal connection has been made. Additionally, the Library has planned a [Teen Services Town Hall](#), open to

- teens and teen focused service providers. ABRWG members are invited and encouraged to attend.
- The new security guard has been supportive in building positive connections with the teens, which has helped when there are issues that need to be addressed. This observation has also been noted in the teen survey
 - The focus is on relationship building and sustainable initiatives that will guide the work of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), along with TAG members' feedback and leadership.
 - There are discussions about improving the Central Library teen area so that it is more engaging, welcoming and a space that teens can have a sense of ownership over.
 - For the next Events Team progress update, SD will arrange for the Adult Services team to attend and share more on adult events.
5. August 1 – Durham Region Emancipation Day at Esplanade Park
- Event will take place from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - Library Outreach staff will facilitate a table with ABRWG information available.
 - No ABRWG members confirmed attendance during the meeting but are encouraged and welcome.
 - Members will contact SY if willing and available to attend.
6. International Day for People of African Descent, August 31 - Event Update and Planning:
- PABRT to confirm event time. ***Post meeting note: PABRT confirmed the event time will be 1pm to 8pm.
 - Library Liaisons and staff will facilitate two tables – one focusing on sharing the new Strategic Plan and the second sharing information about the ABRWG.
 - SA and CB volunteered to attend representing the ABRWG.
 - Members will contact SY if willing and available to attend.
7. Insert Topic 3 September 14 – City of Pickering Cultural Fusion at Esplanade Park
- Event takes place from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - SA (1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) and CB (11:00 am to 1:00 pm) volunteered to attend representing the ABRWG.
 - Members will contact SY if willing and available to attend.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 6:30 pm at George Ashe Library