

Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Online via MS Teams

Clarington ABRAC Members:

Jodie Glean

Dione Valentine

Lauren Reyes-Grange

Rochelle Thomas

Angela Anderson

Hawa Mire (from 7:39pm)

Nadia Nembhard-Hung (from 8:35pm)

Regrets:

Councillor Llyod Rang

Joseph Adesanya

Also Present:

Melissa Westover – Manager, Communications

Jeannette Whynot – Staff Liaison.

Lindsey Turcotte – Committee Coordinator (until 8:11pm)

Donnalee Smith – CLMA

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgment Statement

J. Whynot shared a land acknowledgment statement.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda for May 7, 2025

The agenda was reviewed and approved without any additions.

4. Board and Committee Training Presentation

L. Turcotte from the Clerk's Department provided a standard training presentation for new committees of Council. Topics included the committee's mandate, procedural

bylaw, terms of reference, staff resources, election of members, responsibilities, and obligations.

Committee members asked staff questions about the meeting recordings, including their retention policy, if they are publicly available and if there are safeguards in place to prevent video manipulation. The committee also asked questions about meetings being open to the public, in particular the security protocols for virtual and hybrid meetings.

5. Council Update

M. Westover shared regrets from Councillor Rang, who was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

6. Workplan Brainstorm

The committee brainstormed ideas for the workplan, including:

- Recognizing Black veterans from Clarington (R. Thomas)
- Hosting an Emancipation Day celebration in Clarington (H. Mire)
- Community consultation with Black community members (H. Mire)
- Naming rights for a prominent Black historical figure (H. Mire)
- Anti-Black racism education sessions (D. Valentine)
- Black History Month events throughout the year (D. Valentine)
- hold film screenings, panel discussion and community story events that centre Black voices throughout the year
- Youth empowerment programs (D. Valentine)
- offer mentorship, leadership training and scholarship to Black youth in partnership with local schools and non-profits
- Anti-racism town halls and workshops (D. Valentine)
- partner with schools, libraries, places of worship, to host educational forums on anti-Black racism, allyship and history.
- Expanding on the Black Vendor Village (BVV), contact some of the vendors and collaborate with them for events that focus on things like, the Black experience, health, financial literacy, mental health, etc. (D. Valentine)
- Health-focused programming and partnerships (J. Glean)
- Engaging Black-owned businesses and creating a Black-owned business directory (L. Reyes-Grange)
- Digital literacy workshops (L. Reyes-Grange)
- Public education forums at the library using professional vendors from the BVV (A. Anderson)

Staff indicated they will email a summary of the brainstorming suggestions to the committee, allowing members to review and bring their final preferences to the next meeting.

7. Confirmation of Meeting Time and Format

The committee agreed to hold meetings virtually beginning at 7:30pm, with a hybrid option once a quarter. The committee also agreed to revisit the start time in the future if there is a need.

8. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

L. Reyes-Grange nominated A. Anderson.

R. Thomas and D. Valentine each nominated H. Mire.

No additional nominations were put forward. Both members accepted their nominations for the position of Chair.

Recorded Vote

ABRAC Member	A. Anderson	H. Mire
J. Glean	x	
D. Valentine		x
L. Reyes-Grange	x	
R. Thomas		x
A. Anderson	x	
H. Mire		x
N. Nembhard-Hung	x	
Total	4	3

During the voting process members inquired about conflict of interest as related to the election and therefore the election of the Vice-Chair was deferred to the next meeting. M. Westover noted that staff would provide information to the committee.

9. Other Business

R. Thomas inquired about continuing research for workplan initiatives.

10. Adjournment

Moved by L. Reyes-Grange; seconded by R. Thomas,

That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 7:30pm