

City of Ontario  
Diversity Advisory Committee  
**Minutes**  
June 17, 2020  
City Hall 5:30 pm

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Angela Machuca at 5:33 PM.
2. **Committee members present:** Paul Cheney, Janet Komoto, Angela Machuca & Maria Romero. Other attendees: Adam Brown & Peter Hall with the City, Councilor Freddy Rodriguez, Norma Ramirez with Euvalcree, and Jennifer Yano & Jack Lloyd with Black Lives Matter-Ontario.
3. A motion to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2020 meeting was passed unanimously.
4. Adam announced that he would be leaving early because of a 6:30 pm meeting tonight at FRCC to assess the homeless housing project that was completed at the end of April.
5. Jennifer Yano made a presentation and asked why police reprimand records are not public information. Teachers are also public servants, but yet their records are public. She asked if there was a fine forgiveness program. She thought the requirements for getting a library card were restrictive as undocumented are not eligible. (She needs to discuss this with the Library Board.) She said if you can't read by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, you're on a track to prison.
6. Adam responded: Disputes with officers follow them until resolved. He will check whether disputes follow them after that. There is an informal fine forgiveness system for water and code enforcement often adjusted by the City Hall receptionist. The Council is lax in reinforcing fines. Currently there are about \$300,000 in code enforcement fines issued but about half are forgiven. (See Adam's responses to the BLM demands on the attachment.)
7. Janet suggested that our DAC direct some effort on voter registration in the next few months targeting Hispanics, new citizens and the young (18-39 year olds). Euvalcree said they needed registration forms. Maria says she signs up new citizens after they receive their citizenship certificate.
8. Peter presented cultural designs developed by the Trademark Creative Design company in Boise for the City Wayfinding System to mark ethnic interest in Ontario. Designs were presented for Mexican, Basque, Native American, Japanese and Cowboy/Farmer. The Mexican design was questionable and should be checked and the Cowboy/Farmer was odd, not ethnic. (See designs attached.) Perhaps the new bulbouts downtown can be used for public art displays and incorporate different ethnic art?
9. Norma said that Euvalcree is taking applications for a worker relief program, that includes undocumented, for up to \$1700.
10. Janet announced that there is a city micro loan program for small businesses that were forced to close because of Covid-19. This low interest 1% loan is matched with a grant from the State for \$2500-\$5000.

11. Peter announced that there will be another food handout at Beck-Kiwanis Park this Friday, June 19, from 1 to 3 pm that will have different products from the last handout. 177 boxes were distributed the first time.

12. Paul moved and Maria seconded the motion to adjourn this meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary Janet Komoto

## **Ontario city manager says Black Lives Matter protesters' demands already being discussed, considered**

Many of the Black Lives Matter protesters' eight demands were already being discussed by the city or will be considered, according to Adam Brown, Ontario city manager.

The demands, which were posted on the protest organizer Charlie Gonzalez's Facebook page ahead of the June 4 demonstration, were "well intended," said Brown, but some were "lacking understanding of the process."

For example, one of the demands asked of the Ontario City Council was to address the lack of gender diversity on the Ontario City Council. All the councilors are men. Councilor Freddy Rodriguez said at the protest that it was the responsibility of the community to vote and run for office.

Brown agreed, saying that diversifying the city council is "up to the voters." He said city officials can't change the council makeup.

Demands for the city council, however, largely focused on the city's strategic plan. The plan encompasses five main areas: Desirability, education, beautification, growth and lifestyle, according to the plan.

One demand asks for the city to include more racial equity in its plan, which is not specifically mentioned in any part of the plan.

Another demand asked for more diversity training "beyond what is listed" under the internal improvements section of the lifestyle category. As of now, the section reads: "Educate department heads on methods of interacting with a diverse community."

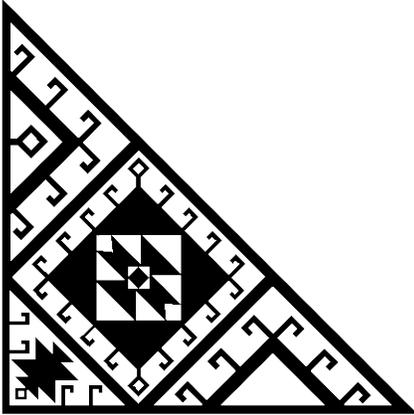
"And so what I picked up from the conversation was that they wanted to extend that beyond staff," Brown said. "Actually, I think our plan may say department heads, but they wanted to extend it to all of the city employees, which we would certainly be supportive of all of our employees, making sure they have diversity training."

Two demands focused on the beautification section of the plan, with strategies including improving the city's cleanliness, creating more activities and bringing more art and culture to the city.

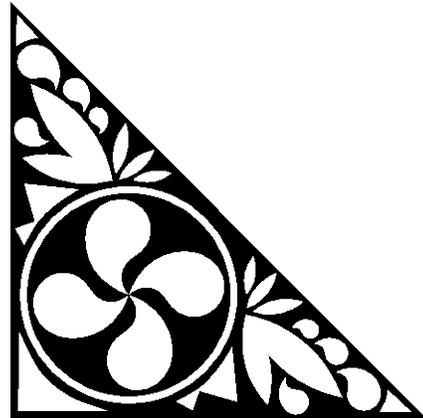
The city should "purposefully seek black and brown artists to be a part of the beautification section of the strategic plan and require artwork to represent the diversity in our community."

Brown said the city council has discussed creating a concrete pedestal for art displays, similar to those in Hood River. The pedestals in Hood River are open for anyone to display their work for up to two years, Brown said, and while on display, the artwork is for sale. Once the artwork is bought, the money goes to the artist, and it is then replaced by another piece of artwork.

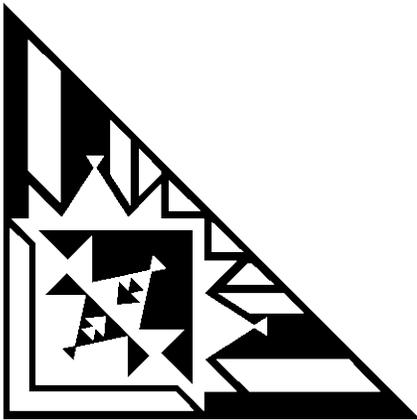
"We're looking for ways to increase public art, and along with that would go representing our cultures," said Brown.



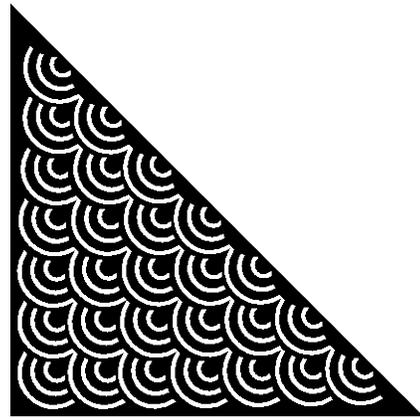
Mexican



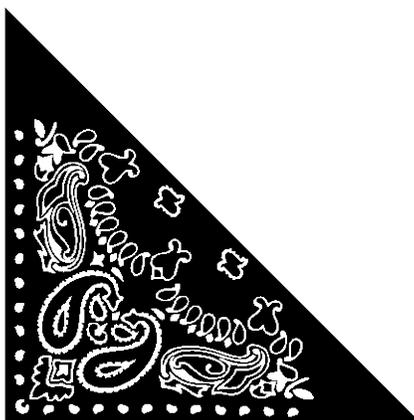
Basque



Native American



Japanese



Cowboy/Farmer