



**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGINA**

GEORGINA

Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM

Members of

Committee Present: Margaret Quirk
Charlene Biggerstaff
Michael Oyston
Nancy Liu
Mona Steitieh
Alice Tsang

Members of

Committee Absent: Hanna Gillis

Staff Present:

Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator
Kelly Atkinson, Head, Human Resources
Patti White, Manager of Recreation Services
Carlie McCormick, Sponsorship and Special Events Supervisor

Others Present:

Robert Gaunt, CNIB Foundation
Patrick Milne, CNIB Foundation
Robin Konstantopoulos, Director, Autism Unplugged Learning
Centre

1. CALL TO ORDER

“The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities.”

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

As noted above.

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. April is Autism Awareness Month

Town Council has proclaimed Wednesday, April 2, 2025 as 'World Autism Day' throughout the Town of Georgina with the theme 'Celebrate the Spectrum' to show support for autistic individuals across Ontario and within our communities, bringing to light the systemic barriers that must be removed to create a more supportive and inclusive Ontario.

4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)

None.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0019

Moved By Mona Steitieh
Seconded By Charlene Biggerstaff

That the April 8, 2025 Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the meeting on March 4, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0020

Moved By Michael Oyston

Seconded By Alice Tsang

That the Minutes of the March 4, 2025 meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

8. SPEAKERS

1. Autism Unplugged Learning Centre

Robin Konstantopoulos, Director at Autism Unplugged Learning Centre, spoke to the Committee about the Centre's essential services and Autism Awareness Month. Robin highlighted the Centre's role in providing essential support for individuals with autism. This includes specialized programming aimed at improving social, academic, and life skills. The Learning Centre offers a range of support resources for families and individuals including guidance and information to navigate challenges and inquisitiveness around supporting autism.

Robin concluded by emphasizing the Learning Centre's commitment to supporting the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0021

Moved By Charlene Biggerstaff

Seconded By Mona Steitieh

That the Committee receive the presentation from Autism Unplugged Learning Centre, for information.

Carried

2. CNIB Foundation

Speakers from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), spoke to the Committee about the Foundation and the Georgina Puppy Development Centre.

The speakers provided an overview of the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), including its origins and development. They discussed the organization's mission, which focuses on vision rehabilitation services, reading and literacy programs, and advocacy efforts for Canadians who are blind or have low vision.

They also highlighted the CNIB Guide Dogs program, which addresses the critical shortage of guide dogs for Canadians with sight loss. This program trains guide dogs and provides them to clients at no cost. A key part of this initiative is the Puppy Development Centre located in Georgina where puppies will receive early training. This Centre will play a vital role in raising future guide dogs, ensuring they receive the highest standard of care from the very beginning.

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0022

Moved By Charlene Biggerstaff
Seconded By Alice Tsang

That the Committee receive the presentation from the CNIB Foundation, for information.

Carried

9. DELEGATIONS/ PETITIONS

None.

10. PRESENTATIONS

None.

11. REPORTS

None.

12. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Disposition Item - February 26, 2025 Council Meeting

At the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting, the following motion was passed to refer correspondence to the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee for information and discussion.

Item 12.1 g. York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities.

RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0053

Moved By Regional Councillor Davison
Seconded By Councillor Neeson

That Town Council endorse the York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities, and that the Food Charter be forwarded to the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee and the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for discussion and information.

Carried

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0023

Moved By Michael Oyston
Seconded By Mona Steitieh

That the Committee receive the Disposition Item from the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting, for information.

Carried

2. Cultural Event Update

Carlie McCormick, Sponsorship and Special Events Supervisor, provided a verbal update on upcoming Cultural Events.

The Town of Georgina's first Cultural Festival is taking place on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the ROC Chalet, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The events team is preparing a public call-out for participants, with applications set to launch this month through promotions via the Town's social media channels and website.

Area's for participation include:

- Cultural performances and workshops – groups can share traditional music, dance, or other cultural art forms, with optional interactive workshops for attendees.
- Food stalls – This is an opportunity to showcase and sell traditional foods and beverages in a culturally themed food zone.
- Art exhibits and demonstrations – including both traditional and contemporary works, plus live demos like art, calligraphy, or textile making.
- Games and activities – from traditional sports to culturally significant games that visitors can try out.
- Vendor Village – for the sale of handmade goods, textiles, cultural crafts, and more.

Committee members are encouraged to network this information to assist in facilitating Cultural groups that they know of to participate.

All inquiries can be forwarded to events@georgina.ca.

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0024

Moved By Charlene Biggerstaff

Seconded By Michael Oyston

That the Committee receive the Cultural Event updates, for information.

Carried

13. MOTIONS/ NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

15. CLOSED SESSION

None.

16. MOTION TO ADJOURN

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0025

Moved By Michael Oyston

Seconded By Mona Steitieh

That the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Carried

Mayor Margaret Quirk, Chair

Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator