



**Town of Aurora
Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Mayor Tom Mrakas* (Chair) (arrived 10:08 a.m.)
Diane Buchanan
Phiona Durrant*
Elaine Martini
Jo-anne Spitzer*
Patricia Wallace (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Arif Faheem Khan

Other Attendees: Shelley Ware, Supervisor, Special Events
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By Diane Buchanan

Seconded By Elaine Martini

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2025

Moved By Elaine Martini

Seconded By Diane Buchanan

1. That the Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 12, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Cultural Services Supervisor - Special Events; Re: 2026 Community Recognition Awards - Evaluation Matrices

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and background on the evaluation matrices, developed in 2024 to support the Committee's review of the award nomination submissions and selection of award winners, and invited the Committee's review and comments.

The Committee and staff discussed various elements including confirmation that all nominations received are forwarded for evaluation;

the intent to reduce unconscious biases; the consultant's experience and review of the nomination and selection process; and staff's efforts and approach to community outreach. The Committee expressed concerns and made suggestions on engaging the full representation of the Town's growing and diverse community, and opportunities to capture relevant data toward a system that reflects the cultural, racial, and generational growth of Aurora.

Moved By Elaine Martini

Seconded By Phiona Durrant

1. That the memorandum regarding 2026 Community Recognition Awards - Evaluation Matrices be received; and
2. That the Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee comments regarding 2026 Community Recognition Awards - Evaluation Matrices be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Memorandum from Cultural Services Supervisor - Special Events; Re: 2026 Community Recognition Awards - Ceremony Logistics

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and location options for the awards ceremony, feedback from previous award recipients, and other event logistics.

The Committee and staff discussed the pros and cons of holding the awards ceremony in the Davide de Simone Performance Hall at Aurora Town Square versus the customary Council Chambers at Aurora Town Hall, including the seating arrangements and capacity, pre- and post-ceremony reception rooms, accessibility, parking, and live streaming. The Committee expressed a marginal preference for maintaining the 2026 awards ceremony at Town Hall, and it was agreed that staff would make the final decision on the event venue.

Moved By Phiona Durrant

Seconded By Elaine Martini

1. That the memorandum regarding 2026 Community Recognition Awards - Ceremony Logistics be received; and

2. That the Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee comments regarding 2026 Community Recognition Awards - Ceremony Logistics be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

The Committee inquired about whether marketing of the awards nomination process is carried out in multiple languages and suggested to include a QR code translation link on the poster. Staff agreed to investigate and noted that information on the Town's website may be translated through the user's web browser. Staff further advised that geofencing marketing is being used in addition to the traditional social media and one-on-one marketing.

The Committee suggested that the awards nomination package include the opportunity for applicants to voluntarily indicate demographic information, and that the Town's website images be more representative of the Town's diverse community.

10. Adjournment

Moved By Diane Buchanan

Seconded By Elaine Martini

That the meeting be adjourned at 11 a.m.

Carried