



Hamilton

MINUTES
LGBTQ Advisory Committee
April 18, 2013 – 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Room 222, City Hall

PRESENT: Kerry Cranston, Chris Erl, David Gunton, Gord Jackson, Michelle Poirier, Renee Wetselaar

ALSO PRESENT: Maxine Carter – Access & Equity Section, City of Hamilton
Jenny Vengris – Housing Services, City of Hamilton

REGRETS: Marlon Picken, Jane Lee

1. WELCOME

Kerry assumed the role of Chair in Marlon's absence.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

Renee stated that she assisted on some aspects of the Housing & Homelessness report being presented

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Four additional items were added under section 6.0 - Business:

- 6.4 Pride Exhibit Application
- 6.5 City Policy Update
- 6.6 Space Steering Committee Update
- 6.7 Safetalk Training Update

(David/Gord)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee agenda for the April 18, 2013 meeting be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATION/DISCUSSION:

The Committee welcomed Jenny Vengris from Housing Services who attended to present the draft report on Housing & Homelessness in Hamilton, for which the committee members provided feedback. Jenny noted that the LGBTQ Advisory Committee name is mislabeled in the report and will be corrected in future documentation. Highlights of the report included:

- 10-year plan to address housing & homelessness in the City of Hamilton
- city and community working together

- plan will address street outreach to affordable housing
- five outcomes/ fifty-four strategies. The five outcomes are: affordable rental & ownership housing; increase housing affordability, stability & choice; individual supports to help obtain & maintain housing; good quality, safe & suitable housing; respectful, quality service
- presenting to Council in September
- listened to challenges of LGBTQ community in housing through consultation with LGBTQ Advisory and informal/unofficial conversation with the Trans Peer Support Group at the WELL.
- 800 people took part in various aspects of outreach during research for report.
- observations from community consultations in general: people need to be more self-directed & advocate for themselves more in housing issues; safety is critical in housing; Housing Services needs to do more work on LGBTQ issues in the Housing & Homelessness Plan; need for universally good & affordable housing stressed by all groups; equity is an important part of the plan; may need a variety of plans to address unique concerns of various groups (example safety)
- the strategies outlined all have action plans for different equity groups (example: women and trans communities). May have a separate work plans in addition to actions plans
- need to incorporate anti-racism/ anti oppressive training for everyone who works in housing and homeless organizations
- two parts of plan: safety plan and action plans
- target rights of tenants who are seeking housing
- education to landlords on anti-racism/ anti-oppressive training

Roundtable discussion took place and Committee comments as follows:

David – suggested adding public art/murals to social housing as is done in Montreal

Gord – housing concerns should include not just physical safety, but also conflict resolution concerning the interactions/personality conflicts of tenants in housing (example: seniors residences where some tenants may not get along with each other)

Kerry – had a few observations about report

- thanked Jenny for noting the name change for the Advisory Committee in future versions of the plan
- requested that the wording on page 12 regarding issues faced by the Trans community be reworded to reflect the wider range of transition trajectories than is currently represented & also take the emphasis off

Trans folk being unable to “pass” as the cause of employment and housing instability as these issues are often a result of external Transphobia (for example, workplace harassment and lack of understanding about trans issues).

- asked about use of the name Frank on page 20 of report as the Plan materials indicate nobody will be identified by personal information.

Jenny stated that “Frank” is a pseudonym.

- asked for clarification about item “G” on page 31 which directs people to a website to view footage from Community Check-In Gathering on March 7, 2012. Were people aware of filming & consent to footage use on the Internet? Jenny stated that attendees were advised filming would be taking place by CHCH TV. Kerry suggested that it be mentioned in future documents that attendees received such information prior to filming.

The Advisory Committee members thanked Jenny for attending tonight’s meeting, for including us in the community consultation and for updating us about the Housing & Homelessness Plan. We look forward to continued participation as the plan moves forward.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David requested that item 3.2 be reworded to read that the minutes of the February meeting were received, not approved, as there was no quorum at that meeting.

(Renee/David)

That the minutes of the March 14, 2013 LGBTQ Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS

6.1 LGBTQ Advisory Committee Secondary Logo

Chris presented four versions of logo to committee members. Designs are ones he developed using feedback from committee and City guidelines. Any secondary logo has to include the City of Hamilton logo in the design. Discussion of committee members about design included suggestions for moving placement of City logo and making words more visually clear (by placement or font). Also asked for clarification of timeline for city approval & if logo could be used for Pride.

The committee consensus was that logo #3, with movement of City logo and wording was best choice. Maxine will check with City Clerk regarding timeline for approval process.

Chris to play around with logo #3 and send variations to committee members via email for feedback

(Gord/David)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee thank Chris for his work on logo design and to accept, in principle, design #3 with slight logo variations to be presented to committee members by next Thursday. **CARRIED**

6.2 Feedback on Letter to Councilors re Pride Week

Maxine updated committee members that the Mayor has agreed to participate in the flag raising ceremony. Renee drafted a letter to councillors about Pride booth participation and submitted to Jane. Maxine to follow-up on letter status.

6.3 Theme for Flag Raising

Michelle advised that May-Marie has booked the forecourt at City Hall for the flag raising ceremony. Committee needs to decide on theme/swag/refreshments.

Roundtable discussion included comments:

- no theme, let speakers decide what to talk about
- Chris was asked to design a flyer for the flag raising. He agreed & will use the flyer from last year for reference.
- committee will limit speakers to: Mayor; one positive space teacher; one delegate from The WELL; one delegate from the Space Steering Committee; Marlon will represent the Advisory Committee; Councillors Brian McHattie & Jason Farr.

The Advisory Committee will approach the Hamilton Gay Men's Chorus about singing at flag raising.

Refreshments will include ice cream cake, cupcakes with rainbows, water & juice.

6.4 Pride Exhibit at City Hall Application

Renee to send an application for use of City Hall lobby display cabinets during Pride Week to Maxine. Renee looking into archival material. Chris mentioned that he had come across some material during school research and would pass info along to Renee.

6.5 City Policy Update

Maxine updated committee on the status of new equity policy for the City & principles/outcomes. After one year & much consultation, the consultants have produced an electronic document that will take any department/organization through a series of steps to ensure that any

new policy/plan/bylaw/Terms of reference/etc. meets all the equity requirements before it is implemented. Particular focus was given to under-represented groups in the equity phase. The program includes tools, consultation ideas and suggestions on how to access grassroots communities. A meeting to show focus groups the current status is planned for May and will include a pilot of current policy projects. The final policy guidelines will go live in September when City Council sees and approves the program/

David – does the program ask the question “is this new policy/bylaw/ etc. necessary?

Renee asked if the forthcoming Cultural Plan for the City will be run through this program. Maxine to confirm.

6.6 Space Steering Committee

Renee reported that the Space Steering Committee met in April. The WELL received a grant for their Needs Assessment on mental health, however, they did not get the additional funds for the space question section of the assessment. Jane found money in her City budget for the space portion of the assessment to move forward. The Advisory Committee requested a written plan for the space section of the assessment to outline the projected costs, as well as, accountability and communication concerns steering committee members raised during the meeting. Transparency is necessary for the assessment to be successful. Requested that the agreement for funds list the LGBTQ Advisory Committee as a partner in the project

6.7 SafeTalk Training Update

This item was tabled.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Renee, David & Kerry to meet to discuss the presentation to the Board of Health about Suicide Prevention/Public Health.

8. INFORMATION SHARING

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.