



Hamilton

MINUTES
LGBTQ Advisory Committee
February 19, 2015 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Room 222, City Hall

PRESENT: Marlon Picken (Chair), Kerry Cranston-Reimer (Vice-Chair), Renee Wetselaar, Chris Erl and Rob Brown

ALSO PRESENT: Maxine Carter, Cindy Mercanti & May-Marie Duwai-Sowa – Access & Equity Section, City of Hamilton

GUESTS: Deirdre Pike (SPRC), Jay Adams (The WELL), Tim (AIDS Network)

Chairperson: Marlon Picken

1. WELCOME

All were welcomed to the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions to Agenda:

- 5.1 Presentation by Deirdre Pike (SPRC)
- 5.2 Presentation by Jay Adams (The WELL)
- 6.7 Update on Scholarship Letters
- 7.1 PRIDE Discussion

(C. Erl/K. Cranston-Reimer)

That the February 19, 2015 Agenda for the LGBTQ Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Meeting of November 20, 2014

(R. Brown/K. Cranston-Reimer)

That the Minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

Carried.

MINUTES – LGBTQ Advisory Committee February 19, 2015

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Deirdre Pike (SPRC)

- D. Pike provided an update on positive space training that the Public Health Department is receiving as a result of an LGBTQ Advisory presentation to City Council following suicide prevention report feedback
- Between October and November 2014, D. Pike and SPRC staff provided two training sessions each for six groups of 25 people
- Between March and June 2015, another nine groups of 20 people will receive two training sessions
- By July, all Public Health Department staff should have received training – those excluded are staff who have already received training
- Staff receiving training included: long-term care facility; public health, mental health, dental, etc.
- Training participants began with various levels of understanding of LGBTQ communities and needs/concerns/issues
- D. Pike felt training could be used by participants in their day-to-day work – however, some additional training would be helpful for some participants
- Following training completion, participants were asked to fill out an online evaluation – 80% of respondents gave positive review of the training sessions
- C. Mercanti and D. Pike discussed the possibility of City staff providing a trainer-to-trainer program for positive space for new City staff who enter the job after these training sessions are complete – D. Pike to discuss with City staff directly but expressed that any LGBTQ training should be done by a member of the LGBTQ communities

Action Item: City staff to follow up with the Recreation Division about positive space training for possible future LGBTQ programming in City recreation centres

5.2 Jay Adams (The WELL)

- J. Adams provided an update on the status of The WELL – LGBTQ Wellness Centre of Hamilton
- The WELL's Trillium funding expired in March 2015 and they have had to revert back to a volunteer run agency – they can no longer provide counselling services
- Peer support groups are still meeting with volunteer facilitators at the AIDS Network – The WELL has given up their office space at the AIDS Network

MINUTES – LGBTQ Advisory Committee February 19, 2015

- Poe Liberado is volunteering to help fulfill WELL obligations established prior to the funding gap
- The WELL is moving forward with their own Needs Assessment which is being completed by Poe Liberado and McMaster University Professor, Dr. K. Goldfarb
- The WELL completed a board and organizational review and plan last year with a third party and is currently in a restructuring process – some decisions need to be made

Roundtable Discussion

The WELL is interested in community conversation about next steps for the WELL and recruiting some new volunteers. A question was received about counselling for those who receive such services from the WELL. J. Adams advised that the WELL is doing their best to refer folks for counselling but the demand is too high for available services. Question asked about who owns the information provided by the community members to the needs assessment – The WELL or McMaster University. J. Adams to clarify.

Discussion continued about the needs assessment and next steps for the Space Steering Committee. Representatives from the LGBTQ Committee (Renee Wetselaar, Kerry Cranston-Reimer) and Tim McClemont and Deirdre Pike (HPSC) to meet with J. Adams to discuss possible timelines and formulate plans for moving forward which will then be presented to the LGBTQ Advisory and Space Steering Committees for discussion.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Reports – None.

6.2 Proposal for Outreach

- C. Erl asked about the timeline when this Committee will end their current term
- M. Picken and M. Carter (staff) gave an update about Advisory Committee's (6.6) review process
- Volunteer Advisory Committees have been given a six month extension to allow the consultation process to be completed. The Neighbourhood and Community Initiative division and the Deputy Clerk have been tasked with the committee and community consultations regarding this issue. M. Picken will contact the chairs of the various committees to meet and share ideas regarding this review process. R. Brown suggested that it would be helpful if all the chairs at the meeting presented their individual committee's

MINUTES – LGBTQ Advisory Committee February 19, 2015

position as not everyone had an opportunity to speak at the General Issues Committee meeting.

Action Item: M. Picken to send an email about date, time and place for meeting with the Advisory Committee chairs.

(K. Cranston-Reimer/C. Erl)

That Item 6.2 regarding Outreach, lack of diversity on LGBTQ Advisory Committee, be tabled. **Carried.**

6.3 Space Steering Committee

Action Item: City staff to send an invitation for the Committee to reconvene on Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

6.4 Equity & Inclusion Policy Implementation

Previously tabled until March 2015.

6.5 WELL – Needs Assessment

Information provided earlier in Minutes under Presentation by J. Adams.

6.6 Volunteer Advisory Committees

Information discussed in Item 6.2 of Minutes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 PRIDE House

- T. McClemon provided information to the Committee regarding this item as a member of the Planning Committee - he is not sure if there will be a Hamilton specific component but there will be a Toronto PRIDE House during the PanAm Games
- CIBC is sponsoring the Toronto PRIDE house

Roundtable Discussion

M. Carter advised that there is a grant available for community PanAm events. Grant proposals are due March 31. There was a discussion by Committee members about the possibility of applying for a grant to create PRIDE House which falls within the advisory mandate of Hamilton being a great place to work, live, play.

Action Item: M. Carter (staff) to forward link for the PanAm Grant to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee members to review and for action of applying for the grant.

**MINUTES – LGBTQ Advisory Committee
February 19, 2015**

7.2 Black Youth LGBTQ Scholarship

- K. Cranston-Reimer requested an update as Ruth Cameron advised that she is still waiting for the letter of support for the Black Youth LGBTQ scholarship from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee meeting that was to be sent to the Hamilton Black History Committee.
- M. Picken advised that the letter has not yet been completed but will be done as soon as possible. He will connect with the Committee Against Racism Chair to get an update regarding the letter.

8. INFORMATION SHARING

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

(K. Cranston-Reimer/ R. Brown)

That the LGBTQ meeting of February 19, 2015 be adjourned.

Carried.