



Hamilton

MINUTES

**LGBTQ Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Room 192

---

**Present:** James Diemert, Autumn Getty, Cameron Kroetsch (Chair),  
Violetta Nikolskaya (Vice Chair), Mitch Ray-Borsc,  
Maureen Wilson (City Council Appointee)

**Regrets:** Sean Cullen, Freja Gray, Kristeen Sprague, Kyle Weitz

**Staff:** Jessica Bowen (Diversity and Inclusion)

**Guests:** Members of the public

**Chair:** Cameron Kroetsch

---

**1. Welcome / Introductions**

Committee members and guests were welcomed and there was a round of introductions.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

C. Kroetsch provided a Land Acknowledgement.

### **3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

None

### **4. Procedural Business**

#### **4.1 Motion to Approve the Agenda**

**(J. Diemert / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the agenda for today's meeting as distributed with the following additions / amendments:

(a) That item 7.5 be added to the agenda:

7.5 Motion to Invite Representatives from the Hamilton Police Service to Delegate to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee at a Future Meeting

(b) That item 3.1 be removed from the agenda

**CARRIED**

### **5. Presentations**

### **6. Recommendations**

## **7. Regular Business**

### **7.1 Motion to Create a Working Group on the Needs Assessment entitled “Mapping the Void: Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ Experiences in Hamilton”**

**(A. Getty / M. Ray-Borsc)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee create a Working Group to further examine the Needs Assessment entitled “Mapping the Void: Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ Experiences in Hamilton”.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: The results of the Needs Assessment can be found at <https://labourstudies.mcmaster.ca/lgbtq>. The YWCA may have a space that can be used for Working Group meetings. There was agreement that one Committee member should be in attendance at all Working Group meetings to ensure consistency. V. Nikolskaya to attend all Working Group meetings.

### **7.2 Motion to Appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee to Meet with Councillor Brad Clark**

**(J. Diemert / A. Getty)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee appoint the Chair (C. Kroetsch) and Vice Chair (V. Nikolskaya) to meet with Councillor Brad Clark at his request.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: Committee members inquired if there was any additional context to the request. No additional information was available. It was suggested that, at this meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair could only provide insight into items that the Committee had already discussed. Members suggested extending an invitation to the Councillor to attend an upcoming meeting.

### **7.3 Motion to Appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee to Attend a Meeting Organized by the Office of the Mayor of Hamilton**

**(V. Nikolskaya / J. Diemert)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee appoint the Chair (C. Kroetsch) and Vice Chair (V. Nikolskaya) to attend a meeting at the invitation of the Office of the Mayor of Hamilton on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 9:00 AM.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: The timing of the meeting, beginning at 9:00 AM, is not an optimal meeting time for people who have conflicting work schedules. The Committee discussed who had been invited and whether the entire Committee was invited or just the Chair and Vice Chair. Members discussed the role of the Committee and suggested that it was within its mandate to give advice to members of Council. Members reiterated that the representatives could not provide advice to the Mayor that they hadn't discussed as a group. It was noted that the meeting was not open or public and was invite-only and that this excluded many members of the Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community.

#### **7.4 Motion to Appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee to Attend a Meeting Organized by the Office of the Chief of the Hamilton Police Service**

**(M. Ray-Borsc / A. Getty)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee appoint the Chair (C. Kroetsch) and Vice Chair (V. Nikolskaya) to attend a meeting at the invitation of the Office of the Chief of the Hamilton Police Service on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

**FAILED**

Discussion: Committee members did not think it would be appropriate for the Committee to advise Hamilton Police Service as the Committee's mandate is to advise City Council.

Members shared that they were interested in hearing the dialogue first hand. Historically, if other organisations wanted advice from the Committee they have requested to attend a monthly meeting. There were concerns raised about who has been invited to the meeting and who has been left out. There are concerns that the meeting will not be representative of either trans or racialized members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities.

#### **7.5 Motion to Invite Representatives from the Hamilton Police Service to Delegate to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee at a Future Meeting**

**(V. Nikolskaya / J. Diemert)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee invite representatives from the Hamilton Police Service to delegate to the LGBTQ Advisory

Committee at a future meeting.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: This was suggested in lieu of attending the meeting as outlined in 7.4. Members noted that the mandate of the Committee is to “eliminate barriers” experienced by Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities. The Committee does this by making recommendations to Council in order that the City will excel in providing services to and interfacing with members of those communities. It can, though, receive delegations and act on specific requests made of it through that process if they are within its mandate. The Committee asked that staff make this invitation to the Hamilton Police Service on its behalf.

## **8. Discussion Items**

## **9. Notices**

9.1 Motion to Appoint a Recording Secretary

## **10. Announcements**

## **11. Adjournment**

**(V. Nikolskaya / J. Diemert)**

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 PM.

**CARRIED**