



# Hamilton

## MINUTES

### **LGBTQ Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

6:00 PM - 8:20 PM

City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Room 192

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**Present:** James Diemert, Freja Gray, Lisa-Marie Johnston, Alex Kaulback, Cameron Kroetsch (Chair), Jake Maurice, Violetta Nikolskaya (Vice Chair), Kyle Weitz, Maureen Wilson (City Council Appointee)

**Regrets:** Kristin Cavarzan, Mitch Ray-Borsc, Kristeen Sprague, Terri Wallis

**Absent:** Sean Cullen, Autumn Getty (Recording Secretary)

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

**Guests:** Samantha Craggs (CBC Hamilton), Rowan Dubois, Al Fletcher (Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton), Jen Hohol (Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton), Rochelle Ihekwoaba (Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton), Sonia Mrva (Hamilton Civic Museums), members of the public

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## **1. Welcome / Introductions**

Committee members and guests were welcomed and there was

a round of introductions.

## **2. Land Acknowledgement**

V. Nikolskaya provided a Land Acknowledgement.

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

None

## **4. Procedural Business**

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

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

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

(a) That item 4.1 be added to the agenda:

4.1 Delegation from Sonia Mrva, Hamilton Civic Museums

**CARRIED**

## **5. Presentations / Delegations**

### **5.1 Delegation from Sonia Mrva, Hamilton Civic Museums**

The delegate shared that the Hamilton Civic Museums are seeking feedback from the public. They have a survey that they are asking community members to complete in order to collect information on how they can achieve better partnerships within the community. The survey can be found at [www.reimagineourmuseums.ca](http://www.reimagineourmuseums.ca). Sonia Mrva's email is [sonia.mrva@hamilton.ca](mailto:sonia.mrva@hamilton.ca). The delegate advised the committee that having a Hamilton Public Library card enables individuals to access museums at no cost.

### **5.2 Delegation from Al Fletcher, Manager, Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton**

The delegate was accompanied by Rochelle Ihekwoaba and Jen Hohol who all explained their role(s) in relation to the establishment of the Multi-Use Hub for Diverse and Marginalized Communities. They requested to gather feedback from the community about what is missing in Hamilton in relation to community space; meeting locations; and co-locating services. The motion can be found at: <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=208283>. The rest of their presentation can be summarized as:

- Staff are consulting with community groups about the hub.

- The Committee inquired about the timeline for consultation. The delegate advised that they are planning to report back to Council by June 2020.
- The Committee inquired if the delegate's team would be willing to work with the LGBTQ Advisory Committee to get feedback from the community. The delegate indicated his team would welcome the opportunity.
- Committee members advised that an environmental scan of Hamilton (<https://labourstudies.mcmaster.ca/lgbtq>) illustrates that Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities have lost space and that there has been nothing done to replace what was lost (i.e. The Well).
- Request by the Committee that this group come back in January, February, and March of 2020 for further review and feedback.
- Al Fletcher can be contacted by email at [Alr.Fletcher@hamilton.ca](mailto:Alr.Fletcher@hamilton.ca) or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Extension 4711.

### **5.3 Delegation from Andrea Holland, City Clerk**

The delegate provided an overview of the services provided by the Office of the City Clerk including running the Municipal election every four years; providing records and legislative advice. The delegate also reviewed some issues that her Office had with the Committee's approved minutes and asked that certain minutes be revised. The delegate offered her Office's services in training the Committee's Chair, Vice Chair, or Recording Secretary. She also offered to review any of the

policies or procedures that governed the Committee's business with any member of the Committee.

## **6. Recommendations**

### **6.1 Motion to write a Citizen Committee Report to Recommend that City Council Reappoint a Member of the Hamilton Police Services Board**

**(V. Nikolskaya / A. Kaulback)**

That the Chair and/or Vice Chair draft a Citizen Committee Report for approval at the next meeting of the Committee to recommend that City Council reappoint a member of the Hamilton Police Services Board.

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 Motion to write a Citizen Committee Report to Recommend that City Council Appoint Additional Members to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee**

**(C. Kroetsch / J. Maurice)**

That the Chair and/or Vice Chair draft a Citizen Committee Report for approval at the next meeting of the Committee to recommend that City Council appoint additional members to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED**

## **7. Regular Business**

### **7.1 Motion regarding the Committee's December 2019 Event**

**(F. Gray / K. Weitz)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee cancel its regular December meeting, on December 17, and schedule a social event in its place for the same date (location TBD) and that the Committee spend the rest of its annual budget on food, coffee, and a room booking for the event.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: The Committee discussed that this has been a social event which has not been well attended in the past. Members agreed to plan for this event scheduled for December 17 but will have backup dates of December 16 and 18 should event space not be available. Locations considered for the event will be the YWCA, CityLAB, Whitehern, and the Hamilton Public Library.

### **7.2 Motion regarding the process to Recommend that the Committee change the Standing Committee to which it Reports**

**(C. Kroetsch / J. Diemert)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee table the motion and bring it forward as a recommendation at its next meeting.

**TABLED**

### **7.3 Motion to Submit a Letter to the Hamilton Police Services Board for Receipt at its December Meeting**

**(F. Gray / K. Weitz)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee submit a letter, as distributed at today's meeting, to the Hamilton Police Services Board for its receipt and inclusion on its public agenda.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: Committee members consulted on what would be the most appropriate way to share their concerns with the Hamilton Police Services Board considering that their request to depute was twice denied. The City Clerk had recommended that, rather than depute, that the Committee send correspondence to the Hamilton Police Services Board. Members of the Committee thought this was a good recommendation and will also follow up with a Citizen Committee Report to City Council about concerns that the Hamilton Police Services Board has continued to say that they cannot address (i.e. the appointment of its members). The point of sending this letter is in place of the denied deputation and to ensure that the Committee's comments are received and on the record.

### **7.4 Motion to Remove K. Sprague and S. Cullen from the Committee**

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

That the Committee remove K. Sprague and S. Cullen from the Committee due to lack of attendance as per the regulations set out in the City of Hamilton Advisory Committee Handbook but also that K. Sprague not be removed if her resignation is

received before the next meeting of the Committee.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: The Committee had discussed the removal of these members at previous meetings when they had missed more than 3 consecutive meetings (a violation of the City of Hamilton Advisory Committee Handbook). Staff had attempted to reach them to convey the Committee's concern and the attendance regulations as outlined in the City of Hamilton Advisory Committee Handbook. Staff also explained that a resignation before the next meeting of the Committee would be better than a removal by the Committee because a removal may forbid any future participation on City of Hamilton agencies, boards, or committees. Staff agreed to further communicate this to K. Sprague. Staff has already communicated this to S. Cullen in advance of today's meeting. The time for S. Cullen to resign has elapsed.

## **8. Discussion Items**

### **8.1 Update from Working Group on Committee Selection and Scheduling of its Next Meeting**

C. Kroetsch chairs this Working Group. He advised the Committee that the Working Group was officially on hiatus until such time in the future as it deemed necessary to assist the Committee in compiling its advice in the form of a Citizen Committee Report regarding the selection of this Committee after the next municipal election. A future meeting will not be scheduled at this time.

## **8.2 Update from Working Group on the Needs Assessment and Scheduling of its Next Meeting**

V. Nikolskaya chairs this Working Group. She advised the Committee that the next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2019 at 6:00 PM with a subsequent meeting scheduled for January 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM. The previous meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.

## **8.3 Meme containing Homophobic Slur posted by the City of Hamilton Employee**

C. Kroetsch advised the Committee that an issue was brought to his attention in his capacity as Chair of a meme on social media containing a homophobic slur. He reported this matter to City staff and reported that the slur had been removed. Staff advised that the City takes every complaint seriously. The post was investigated, addressed, and removed promptly. Staff advised that they could not speak about individual personnel matters or investigation results. Staff thanked C. Kroetsch for bringing this matter to their attention.

## **8.4 Process for Renaming the Committee**

The Committee briefly discussed what a renaming might entail both in terms of the process and what form the renaming might take (i.e. consideration of an umbrella term or acronym) and how it might do outreach to hear from Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities about renaming the Committee.

## **8.5 Planning a Committee Retreat for 2020**

Consensus was that a retreat be planned as soon as possible and that dates be discussed and finalized in January 2020.

## **8.6 Planning an All Advisory Committees Event**

Consensus was that an event be planned as soon as possible and that dates be discussed and finalized in January 2020.

## **9. Notices**

9.1 Motion to Extend the Meeting Time to 8:30 PM (as part of approving the agenda)

9.2 Motion to Schedule a Broader Community Consultation with Respect to the Multi-Use Hub for Diverse and Marginalized Communities

9.3 Discussion about the 2020 Flag Raising Ceremony

## **10. Announcements**

The following announcements were made:

- Transgender Day of Remembrance will be held on November 20, 2019 at the Good Shepherd

- The AIDS Network is holding a Comfort & Joy fundraising and silent auction on December 6, 2019 at the Art Gallery of Hamilton from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM; tickets are \$25

## **11. Adjournment**

**(J. Diemert / F. Gray)**

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 PM.

**CARRIED**