



# Hamilton

## MINUTES

### **LGBTQ Advisory Committee**

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

6:00 PM - 8:15 PM

City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Room 192

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**Present:** James Diemert, Autumn Getty, Cameron Kroetsch (Chair), Violetta Nikolskaya (Vice Chair), Mitch Ray-Borsc, Kristeen Sprague, Kyle Weitz

**Regrets:** Sean Cullen, Freja Gray, Sam Merulla (City Council Appointee)

**Staff:** Betsy Pocop (Diversity and Inclusion)

**Guests:** Members of the public

**Chairs:** Betsy Pocop, Cameron Kroetsch

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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**

**(K. Sprague / A. Getty)**

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

- (a) That agenda items 5.4 and 5.5 be moved ahead of item 5.3
- (b) That items 4.2, 5.4, and 5.5 be added to the agenda:
  - 4.2 Motion to Approve the Minutes of January 17, 2019
  - 5.4 Selection of Additional Committee Members
  - 5.5 Working Groups

**CARRIED**

#### **4.2 Motion to Approve the Minutes of January 17, 2019**

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

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the meeting minutes of January 17, 2019 as distributed with the following additions / amendments:

- (a) Corrections to the pronouns used to describe a member

**CARRIED**

Discussion: The Committee discussed how to action items that arose during a previous meeting and how they could be actioned in future. Specifically, members asked about the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee's name, and the Basic Income Pilot.

## **5. Elections**

### **5.1 Election of Chair**

V. Nikolskaya nominated C. Kroetsch for Chair.

- C. Kroetsch accepted the nomination.

K. Sprague nominated herself for Chair.

A. Getty nominated J. Diemert for Chair

- J. Diemert did not accept the nomination.

C. Kroetsch and K. Sprague were the nominees for the position of Chair.

C. Kroetsch was elected to the position of Chair.

### **5.2 Election of Vice Chair**

C. Kroetsch nominated V. Nikolskaya for Vice Chair.

- V. Nikolskaya accepted the nomination.

K. Sprague nominated herself for Vice Chair.

A. Getty nominated K. Weitz for Vice Chair.

- K. Weitz did not accept the nomination.

V. Nikolskaya and K. Sprague were the nominees for the position of Vice Chair.

V. Nikolskaya was elected to the position of Vice Chair.

## **6. Presentations**

## **7. Recommendations**

### **7.1 Motion to Recommend Reopening Committee Selection**

#### **(C. Kroetsch / K. Sprague)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee recommend to City Council that the selection process be reopened to increase the Committee's number from 9 to 15 with a focus on recruiting youth, racialized people, and community partners with the following quoted from the spectrum Hamilton pledge:

- (a) a clear, open, advertised community call-out for new representatives on the City's LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee in the upcoming term
- (b) Add two youth (under 29) representative seats
- (c) Engage community organizations and leaders as ex-officio members of the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

**CARRIED**

Discussion: Members expressed disappointment that neither youth nor racialized individuals were appointed to the committee. Members indicated they did not understand the limit of 9 members that was imposed and further that this number was imposed informally without Council approval. Members and guests indicated that the application process was draining. Staff advised the committee that they could make a recommendation

to City Council to increase the number of members on the committee but that they will need a Citizen Committee Report. The Chair and Vice Chair agreed to write the Citizen Committee Report.

## **8. Regular Business**

### **8.1 Motion to Schedule Regular Committee Meetings**

**(K. Sprague / J. Diemert)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee schedule its meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: Members indicated the current scheduled meeting date and time of the third Thursday would not work for all members and that Thursdays are typically event days in the community. Alternate days of the week and potential time changes were discussed.

### **8.2 Motion to Prepare a Citizen Committee Report**

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

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee appoint the Chair and Vice Chair to draft a Citizen Committee Report in relation to the recommendation under 7.1 (above) to be approved by the Committee at a future meeting.

**CARRIED**

### **8.3 Motion to Create a Working Group on Committee Selection**

**(C. Kroetsch / K. Sprague)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee create a Working Group to focus on the Committee Selection process in collaboration with community partners and that they hold their first meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: A member recommended striking a Working Group to discuss the selection process item, develop promotional materials for recruitment, and allow youth the opportunity to be involved before they sit on the Committee.

Members discussed that the working group should have community partners involved in the selection process discussion.

Members and guests enquired on:

- age limit for potential community members who may be involved in the Working Group; and
- a communication process for advertising the Working Group to the general public

Staff advised communication is to occur through the City and the City's Communications section (on the website).

A member suggested that another Working Group might be created in the future to specifically discuss housing and homelessness as it impacts LGBTQ communities.

## 8.4 Motion to Cancel the Flag Raising Ceremony

**(J. Diemert / K. Sprague)**

Whereas the ceremonial act of displaying Pride flags at City Hall signals to the public that the City of Hamilton commits to solidarity with Hamilton's Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ citizens, but is not in and of itself an act of solidarity, and

Whereas the City of Hamilton has failed to materially demonstrate solidarity with Hamilton's Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ citizens through:

- (a) the continued employment [Personal Information] threaten the safety of all marginalized City staff and volunteers and citizens whose private information is stored using the City's IT systems (i.e. delegate home addresses, phone numbers, and other personal information); [Personal Information] and
- (b) [Personal Information] on the Hamilton Police Services Board, despite calls from the community to revisit the decision and appoint a community member from a marginalized group; and
- (c) the City's failure to meet all of the criteria of the 2017 Trans Protocol; and
- (d) the selection process for this term of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee by:
  - arbitrarily (and without the approval of City Council) capping the committee at 9 members (where the committee's mandate does not have a membership limit); and

- not conducting interviews with applicants; and
- not consulting the previous committee or the wider Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community about the process; and
- as a result, excluding important voices from formal participation on this committee.

Therefore, let it be resolved that:

1. The annual unfurling and raising of flags at Hamilton City Hall in celebration of Pride month be cancelled in 2019.
2. Any future ceremonial demonstrations of solidarity with the Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community in association with the City of Hamilton's LGBTQ Advisory Committee be contingent upon a satisfactory resolution to the above noted concerns.
3. Should any event that ceremonially celebrates Pride Month with the intention of signalling the City of Hamilton's solidarity with Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ citizens occur in 2019, that it will be understood to be occurring without the support of, and in direct opposition of, the expressed wishes of the City of Hamilton's LGBTQ Advisory Committee.
4. The event be replaced with an open community discussion at the same time and place as the original event was scheduled, which is May 31, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the City Hall forecourt.

**CARRIED**

Discussion: A member proposed an amendment to the motion to include the issue of the appointment to the Hamilton Police Services Board. Another amendment from a member was proposed to change wording around employment to "continued employment".

Feedback provided from a guest in attendance led to an



amendment to the motion that the City has not fulfilled all the criteria of its Trans Protocol; Committee members were in agreement to include the feedback into the motion.

Members and guests discussed consideration for community members and the impact of not hosting the flag raising event.

Members discussed if the flag raising is not to be held, what might take place in lieu of the event including a community dialogue or town hall event.

## **9. Discussion Items**

## **10. Notices**

## **11. Announcements**

## **12. Adjournment**

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

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**CARRIED**