



Hamilton

MINUTES

LGBTQ Advisory Committee Tuesday,

January 21, 2020

6:00 PM - 8:40 PM

City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Room 192

Present: James Diemert, Autumn Getty (Recording Secretary), Freja Gray, Lisa-Marie Johnston, Cameron Kroetsch (Chair), Jake Maurice, Violetta Nikolskaya (Vice Chair), Mitch Ray-Borsc, Maureen Wilson (City Council Appointee)

Regrets: Alex Kaulback, Terri Wallis, Kyle Weitz

Absent: Kristin Cavarzan

Staff: Nabila Akbary (Diversity and Inclusion), Jessica Bowen (Diversity and Inclusion)

Guests: Ben ElzingaCheng (Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Bergman LLP), Kendall Ferdinand, Ashley Letts (Steel City Inclusive Softball Association), Chris Ritsma (Hamilton Cycling Committee), Faye Thomas, Lex Tyllard, members of the public

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. Elections

The Committee was advised by staff that they had received correspondence from the office of the City Clerk that each Advisory Committee must conduct elections at the first meeting of every calendar year.

3.1 Election of Chair

(V. Nikolskaya / A. Getty)

That C. Kroetsch was unanimously acclaimed Chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for 2020.

CARRIED

3.2 Election of Vice Chair

(A. Getty / C. Kroetsch)

That V. Nikolskaya was unanimously acclaimed Vice Chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for 2020.

CARRIED

3.3 Election of Recording Secretary

(V. Nikolskaya / C. Kroetsch)

That A. Getty was unanimously acclaimed Recording Secretary of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for 2020.

CARRIED

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

J. Diemert, A. Getty and C. Kroetsch declared conflicts of interest related to item 8.4.

5. Procedural Business

5.1 Motion to Approve the Formal Agenda

(M. Ray-Borsc / F. Gray)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the agenda for today's meeting as distributed.

CARRIED

5.2 Motion to Approve the Informal Agenda

(F. Gray / A. Getty)

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

- 5.7 - Request to delegate at the Committee's February meeting from Greg Tedesco, Housing Services, City of Hamilton with respect to feedback on the Point-in-Time Connection survey
- 8.5 - Resignation of A. Kaulback

CARRIED

5.3 Motion to Approve the Minutes of November 19, 2019

(F. Gray / V. Nikolskaya)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the minutes from its November 19, 2019 meeting as distributed.

CARRIED

5.4 Motion to Rescind the Approval of the Minutes

(J. Diemert / M. Ray-Borsc)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee rescind any previous approval of its minutes from April 30, 2019 to October 15, 2019.

CARRIED

5.5 Motion to Approve the Minutes from April 30, 2019 to October 15, 2019 except for the minutes from May 15, 2019

(V. Nikolskaya / F. Gray)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the minutes of its April 30, 2019; May 28, 2019; June 25, 2019; July 16, 2019; August 20, 2019; August 27, 2019; September 17, 2019; and October 15, 2019 meetings as distributed.

CARRIED

Discussion: The office of the City Clerk has requested changes to the May 15, 2019 minutes. The Committee will vote on and discuss the approval of those minutes separately.

5.6 Motion to Approve the Minutes from May 15, 2019

(F. Gray / J. Diemert)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the minutes of its May 15, 2019 meeting as distributed.

CARRIED

Discussion: The Committee did not approve the changes requested by the office of the City Clerk. The City Clerk provided a rationale for the requested changes and cited both the potential release of personal information and a potential violation of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). Members voiced a concern that it was not up to them to interpret MFIPPA or any other legislation. Despite this, members read and discussed the rationale and materials provided by the City Clerk (“Fact Sheet: What is Personal Information?” from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario dated October 2016). Members did not feel that the provided rationale or materials held any relevance with respect to the Committee’s Minutes especially as the content of its Minutes had been made public by the media in May 2019. Members voiced concerns that none of the information in its Minutes should be considered personal but should be classified as “business information”. Members were especially vocal with respect to the second item that the City Clerk asked to be changed and were confused as to how this could be construed to identify any specific individual (in either a personal or business setting).

5.7 Approval of Presentations / Delegations

(J. Diemert / V. Nikolskaya)

That the following requests be deferred to the Committee's next meeting and added to the appropriate agenda(s):

- Request to delegate at today's meeting from Al Fletcher, Manager, Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton with respect to the Multi-Use Hub for Diverse and Marginalized Communities

That the following requests be approved and added to the appropriate agenda(s):

- Request to delegate at today's meeting from Ben ElzingaCheng, Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Bergman LLP with respect to the Hamilton Police Services Board's Independent Review of Pride 2019
- Request to delegate at today's meeting from Ashley Letts, Steel City Inclusive Softball Association, with respect to a softball league for members of Two Spirit & LGBTQTIA+ communities
- Request to delegate at the Committee's February meeting from Greg Tedesco, Housing Services, City of Hamilton with respect to feedback on the Point-in-Time Connection survey

CARRIED

6. Presentations / Delegations

6.1 Delegation from Ben ElzingaCheng, Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Bergman LLP with respect to the Hamilton Police Services Board's Independent Review of Pride 2019

Ben ElzingaCheng shared with the Committee that his firm, Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Bergman LLP is responsible for conducting the Independent Review of Pride 2019.

The delegate advised that his firm is trying to meet with as many community members as possible. He requested the Committee's participation and encouraged members to reach out to their networks so that the firm is able to hear from as many community voices as possible.

The review is expected to be completed by April 30, 2020 and will be presented publicly.

The firm is looking to have meetings between February and March. They will work with community members to meet when they are available and with the level of support they might require to participate in the meetings.

6.2 Delegation from Ashley Letts, Steel City Inclusive Softball Association, with respect to a softball league for members of Two Spirit & LGBTQIA+ communities

Ashley Letts advised that they are seeking to create a softball team in Hamilton for the LGBTQ community. This is a not-for-profit community league. The major costs associated with participating include equipment, uniforms, which will be approximately \$100.00 per player.

The delegate provided contact information to the group and advised that there is a Facebook group available to connect as well.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Motion to Recommend that City Council Reappoint a Member of the Hamilton Police Services Board

(J. Diemert / F. Gray)

That the Committee approve the Citizen Committee Report as distributed and submit it to City Council.

CARRIED

7.2 Motion to Recommend that City Council Appoint Additional Members to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee

(A. Getty / F. Gray)

That the Committee approve the Citizen Committee Report as distributed and submit it to City Council.

CARRIED

7.3 Motion to write a Citizen Committee Report to Recommend that the Committee change the Standing Committee to which it Reports

(J. Diemert / F. Gray)

That rather than vote on this matter at today's meeting the Committee add this motion to its Outstanding Business List.

CARRIED

Discussion: The Committee suggested that this work be done in coordination with the other Advisory Committees that report to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee (Advisory Committee for Immigrants and Refugees, Committee Against Racism, Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Hamilton Status of Women Committee, Mundialization Committee). The Committee also suggested that this coordination happen when the Chair and Vice Chair are going around to other Advisory Committees to talk with them about plans for an All Advisory Committee event. This motion would come back to the Committee once that work has been completed.

8. Regular Business

8.1 Motion to Schedule the Committee's 2020 Retreat and Assign a Budget for its Expenses

(J. Diemert / M. Ray-Borsc)

That the Committee defer this motion to its next meeting.

DEFERRED

Discussion: Dates of late April or early May were discussed. The Committee wasn't sure if a retreat was the right language here and wanted to ensure that training was a major component. The Chair and Vice Chair will confer about the budget with staff and bring more information back to the Committee's next meeting.

8.2 Motion to Schedule an All Advisory Committees Event and Develop a Communications Strategy

(V. Nikolskaya / C. Kroetsch)

That rather than vote on this matter at today's meeting the Committee add this motion to its Outstanding Business List.

CARRIED

Discussion: The Committee's Chair will do research on the other Advisory Committees and come back with a different, but related, motion at the Committee's next meeting.

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

(J. Diemert / A. Getty)

That the Committee disseminate the related survey link (http://bit.ly/COH_CommunityHub) via its social media channels before its next meeting.

CARRIED

8.4 Motion to Donate \$250 to the Building Solidarity Panel Discussion being held on February 13, 2020

(V. Nikolskaya / F. Gray)

That the Committee provide a financial contribution of \$250.00 to the Interfaith, Two Spirit, and LGBTQIA+ Panel Discussion on February 13, 2020 to assist with the cost of honoraria and accessibility.

CARRIED

8.5 Resignation of A. Kaulback

(F. Gray / V. Nikolskaya)

That the Committee accept the resignation of A. Kaulback.

CARRIED

8.6 Motion to Delegate to the Hamilton Police Services Board at its Meeting on February 14, 2020

(J. Diemert / V. Nikolskaya)

That the Committee delegate to the Hamilton Police Services Board on February 14, 2020 with respect to recommendations from its May 15, 2019 meeting and in relation to the surveillance of the Committee's event on June 18, 2019; that the Chair delegate on behalf of the Committee; and that the Chair read from the correspondence sent to the Hamilton Police Service Board and received at its December 2019 meeting.

CARRIED

9. Discussion Items

9.1 Update from Working Group on Committee Selection (on hiatus)

9.2 Update from Working Group on the Needs Assessment and Scheduling of its Next Meeting

The Working Group met and discussed plans for continuing to connect with other interested community members. The next meeting of the Working Group will be on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the YWCA.

9.3 2020 Flag Raising Ceremony

Members discussed options for what could be done in lieu of a “flag raising ceremony” since the sentiment of this event is focused around opening Pride month in Hamilton. The Committee would like to discuss working with Pride around this. The Chair will speak to its Board of Directors, of which he is a member, and report back at the Committee’s next meeting.

9.4 Continued Discussion of the Process for Renaming the Committee

The Committee deferred this discussion to its next meeting.

9.5 Continued Discussion of Food at Committee Meetings

The Committee deferred this discussion to its next meeting.

10. Notices

11. Announcements

- The Building Solidarity panel will be held on February 13, 2020 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at 1 James Street North (McMaster Centre for Continuing Education) in Room 204

12. Adjournment

(J. Diemert / F. Gray)

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 PM.

CARRIED