

Annual Presentation of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee

Cameron Kroetsch, Chair
December 10, 2020

Year in Review

- 6 meetings held, quorum achieved for all of them; building on an impeccable record of having held 9 meetings and hosted 2 public events from April through December of 2019
- COVID-19 really limited our ability to meet this year and to get through our planned agenda but we still managed to accomplish a number of our goals

Key Milestones - January

- Participated in the City's new annual election cycle for Advisory Committees (the third election of Chair and Vice Chair during this current term of Council)
- Accepted delegations from lawyers working on the Independent Review of the event surrounding Pride 2019 and from a community organization looking to connect with Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities

Key Milestones - January

- Completed an overhaul of the template for our minutes, in cooperation and collaboration with the City Clerk and their office, to increase both legibility and ease of use
- Successfully worked with the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee to increase the number of members on the LGBTQAC from 9 to 15

Key Milestones - January

- Submitted recommendations to various bodies with respect to reconsidering City Council's citizen appointee to the Hamilton Police Services Board; including a delegation to the Board on February 14, 2020
- Planned a number of community wide discussions for 2020 around issues facing members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities

Key Milestones - February

- Accepted a delegation from Greg Tedesco, City of Hamilton, Housing Services staff
- Planned a training day for members of the LGBTQAC
- Planned delegations to all 13 of the City of Hamilton's Advisory Committees to invite them to come together for an event and to seek input around topics and themes

Key Milestones - February

- Planned a community survey and engagement event to discuss the LGBTQAC's plans for Pride month
- Planned to submit a Citizen Committee Report to the City Clerk's office with suggestions around where it would be best to advertise for Committee vacancies

Key Milestones - March

- Cancelled the in person LGBTQAC meeting scheduled for March as the City of Hamilton began to make decisions about how to handle the COVID-19 pandemic
- Meetings were cancelled by the City for April and May

Key Milestones - June

- Meetings were cancelled by the City in June and July with permission to schedule virtual meetings granted starting in August (the Committee chose to resume meeting in September)
- The LGBTQAC was not permitted by the City to meet, due to COVID restrictions, in or near Pride month and was thus unable to participate in or support Pride 2020

Key Milestones - September

- Planned the LGBTQAC's first ever formal annual presentation to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
- Regrouped around the successful delegations to other Advisory Committees about plans for an event for all 13 of the City of Hamilton's Advisory Committees

Key Milestones - October

- Accepted a delegation from Rebecca Sutherns, Sage Solutions with respect to the City of Hamilton's Hate Prevention and Mitigation Initiative
- Discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities

Key Milestones - October

- Discussed the Integrity Commissioner report and the formal reprimand of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair by City Council
- The City cancelled scheduled delegations to other Advisory Committees, around the planned all AC event, as a result of a new regulation that now requires the approval of City Council for all delegations

Key Milestones - November

- Made recommendations for the LGBTQAC's 2021 budget
- Recommended a donation to Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) events in the City of Hamilton
- Recommended support to community organizations helping members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities who are struggling during the pandemic

Key Milestones - November

- Accepted a delegation from Matthew Grant and Alipa Patel, City of Hamilton, Communications staff
- Completed recommendations regarding advertising for vacancies on the LGBTQAC and submitted them to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee

Key Milestones - November

- Tentatively scheduled an all Advisory Committee event for the end of January and began discussions about how to disseminate the information for feedback from the other 13 Advisory Committees
- Submitted correspondence to the City of Hamilton with respect to sidewalk snow clearing

Reflection on 2020

- The LGBTQAC was able to do quite a bit of work in January and February before the pandemic hit
- The pause in meetings caused the LGBTQAC to lose momentum but it got back on track with its goals in October and November and looks forward to having a full Committee of 15 members as soon as possible

Looking ahead to 2021

- It is unclear how the pandemic will continue to impact members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities but the LGBTQAC will continue to do what it can to help
- There will be some renewed planning for discussions about a Pride event and the LGBTQAC plans to review its formal mandate and structure as well as to provide training to its members