



Hamilton

MINUTES

LGBTQ Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

6:00 PM - 7:50 PM

Webex

Present: Cameron Kroetsch (Chair), Jake Maurice, Violetta Nikolskaya (Vice Chair), Terri Wallis, Freja Gray, Kyle Weitz, Maureen Wilson (City Council Appointee)

Regrets: James Diemert, Autumn Getty

Absent: Lisa-Marie Johnston

Staff: Pauline Kajiura (Staff Liaison)

Guests: Mikhaila Bernales (BSW Placement Student)

1. Welcome / Introductions

C. Kroetsch took roll call.

2. Land Acknowledgement

V. Nikolskaya provided a Land Acknowledgement.

(a) Changes to the Agenda (Item 5.1)

C. Kroetsch advised of the following change to the agenda:

Approval of the Agenda (Item 5.1)

(K. Weitz, V. Nikolskaya)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the Agenda for today's meeting as distributed, with an amendment that the approval of the agenda be moved to follow item 2.

CARRIED

(b) Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3)

None declared.

(c) 2021 Committee Elections (Item 4)

(i) Nominations (Item 4.1)

P. Kajiura made a call for nominations for the Chair position. C. Kroetsch was nominated by V. Nikolskaya, and the nomination was accepted.

P. Kajiura made a call for nominations for the Vice-Chair position.

V. Nikolskaya was nominated by C. Kroetsch and the nomination was accepted.

K. Weitz was nominated by V. Nikolskaya, and the nomination was declined.

J. Diemert was nominated by K. Weitz, who was not present.

P. Kajiura made a call for nominations for the Recording Secretary position.

There were no nominations.

(ii) Elections (Item 4.2)

C. Kroetsch was acclaimed as Chair. Elections for Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary were deferred to the next meeting giving J. Diemert an opportunity to accept or decline his nomination and to again request nominations for recording secretary.

(d) Motion to Approve the Minutes of December 15, 2020 (Item 5.2)

(K. Weitz / V. Nikolskaya)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the minutes of its December 15, 2020 meeting, as distributed.

CARRIED

(e) Presentation from Councillor Maureen Wilson with respect to a Park Renewal Plan for the Hamilton Amateur Athletic Grounds (HAAA) at 250 Charlton Avenue West (Item 6.1)

Cllr Wilson introduced the topic of the park renewal initiative in Ward 1, in the Kirkendall neighbourhood, southwest part of the ward, a green space east of Locke bounded by Locke, Charlton and Queen, 7 acres in size. It holds a clay running track, playground equipment and basketball court. Frequented by people in and outside the ward.

There are 2 public meeting dates with the same information in each - February 4th at 7:30 and Saturday Feb 6 at 10:30 am. Evening and weekend times are an attempt to make the meetings accessible. Ward 1 office will provide a walkthrough test run of Zoom to increase participation.

City and Ward 1 office, assisted by neighbourhood working group, have adopted principle of inclusivity and are reaching out to stakeholders to invite to the consultation and to get ideas to reach people for the consultation to hear considerations for the park redevelopment. Cllr. Wilson invited people to attend meetings or provide her with feedback by email.

C. Kroetsch – Is it laid out and are facilities in the best way for people who use it today? Consider climate resiliency and reducing runoff.

V. Nikolskaya – ensure washrooms are accessible and are not gendered and include change tables/stations. Accessible washrooms are especially important in COVID times, where we have seen more need. Consider the Portland Loo project - self-maintained washrooms. Ensure drinking fountains, to beat the heat and make the space safer.

T. Wallis offered to speak with Cllr. Wilson about accessibility. Cllr. Wilson received good feedback from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and has meetings with professionals from Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre. T. Wallis suggested connecting with the Disabilities Justice Network of Ontario.

F. Gray - Gender-neutral, trans symbol makes a difference and makes it more welcoming. Parks are good for community art projects.

C. Kroetsch – research shop at McMaster studied washrooms in Hamilton and in other locations in North America, and presented to the Beasley Neighbourhood Association, included Portland Loo project, and is online.

Cllr. Wilson thanked committee members for the feedback.

(f) Recommendations (Item 7.)

(i) Motion to Recommend an All Advisory Committee Event (Item 7.1)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee send the Citizen Committee Report, as distributed, to AF&A.

(V. Nikolskaya / J. Maurice)

CARRIED

(ii) Motion to Recommend that the Office of the City Clerk Make Changes to the Policies in its "Letter to Advisory Committees" (Item 7.2)

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee send the email, as distributed, to the Office of the City Clerk in response to the Clerk's letter to advisory committees of December 2020.

(K. Weitz / V. Nikolskaya)

Cameron reviewed the committee's recommendations regarding the Clerk's Office changes to the guidelines.

CARRIED

(g) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 9)

(i) Outstanding Business List (Item 9.1)

C. Kroetsch informed the committee he re-added changing the name of the committee to the outstanding business list.

V. Nikolskaya stated that some Councillors are eager to see the name change, which is exciting, but failed to acknowledge that the committee has considered this for some time but the process requires rigour and is labourious.

ii) Changes to the Land Acknowledgment (Item 9.2.)

J. Maurice has been working with Indigenous communities lately and with youth and feels there are some problematic pieces in the land acknowledgment used by the committee and asked to review if and bring back recommended changes.

V. Nikolskaya supported Jake's recommendation and looks forward to what Jake and youth will bring forward and suggested the LGBTQAC work with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

J. Maurice will review the acknowledgement. V. Nikolskaya will send him the one read at these meetings and P. Kajiura will send him the City's land acknowledgement for reference.

(iii) Updates from Working Groups (Item 9.3.)

There were no updates

(iv) Update about Discussion Items from the Previous Meeting (Item 9.4.)

C. Kroetsch – included in a CCR last January, the LGBTQAC requested that the Chair to be able to participate in the process of reviewing applications for membership on the committee, or that someone from the committee be in the room. Part of request.

P. Kajiura will follow up on the request and its status.

Cllr. Wilson clarified that this request may be problematic as there is an expectation of privacy with applications, which is why the selection committee makes a recommendation in closed sessions and swear an oath to uphold the confidentiality.

V. Nikolskaya stated that part of our request was that we participate in some regard, as it is predominantly cis and straight folks who are members of the selection committee who are making decisions on a committee they are not members of. Perhaps the participation could be "blind", in that the LGBTQAC participants do not see names of applicants. She also thinks folks are expecting that it is not based on a merit system, which is flawed, and hopes for consultation in any way, regarding the problems with a merit

process and advise on why certain parts of the process could be better and tear down some of the barriers. Everyone who joined the committee signed a confidentiality agreement.

(v) Update about Recruitment and Advertising to Fill the Committee's Vacancies (Item 9.5.)

P. Kajiura gave an update; that the ads were completed by the Creative team at the City using Matt Crans graphic artwork, that social media and newspaper ads will begin fairly soon.

V. Nikolskaya pointed out the barrier in asking for a resumé; that these are volunteer positions and resumé and cover letters can be intimidating and be a barrier to addressing the historical underrepresentation of queer, trans and BIPOC. Suggested using “statement of interest” or “application”.

Please ensure everyone gets copies of the ads for sharing. C. Kroetsch commended Matt Crans on his detail and attention; including the Medicine Wheel, featured people known in the 2S-LGBTQIA+ community, removed orange for colour-blindness, clear sign for BLM, took all of the feedback and this was a lot of work on his part and so pleased that someone from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community was the artist.

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

(F. Gray / V. Nikolskaya)

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

CARRIED