



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)

For Chair - V. Nikolskaya nominated C. Kroetsch and the nomination was accepted.

For Vice-Chair - C. Kroetsch nominated V. Nikolskaya and the nomination was accepted. V. Nikolskaya nominated K. Weitz and the nomination was declined. K. Weitz nominated J. Diemert, who was not present.

There were no nominations for Recording Secretary.

(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 nominees opportunity to accept or decline nominations and to again open 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. Frequenting 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.

Discussion - The Committee had the following feedback for Councillor Wilson.

Are the facilities laid out and accessible enough for those who use them today? The park is historically significant, and was built for a different time in mind. How can the heritage features be preserved while still finding ways to make the space more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming?

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, for extreme heat.

A member offered to speak with Cllr. Wilson about accessibility and suggested connecting with the Disabilities Justice Network of Ontario. Cllr. Wilson sought feedback from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and has meetings with professionals from Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre..

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

The BNA had recently worked with researchers at McMaster University to develop a study of public washroom spaces in North America and how they might apply to Hamilton. It was suggested that Councillor Wilson contact the BNA to get more information.

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)

The item with respect to changing the name of the Committee was added back to the list until such time as recruitment has been completed. A member remarked that they were encouraged after hearing that members of the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee were happy to welcome a change to the name, but that there was not acknowledgement of the many times this had come forward in the past and the number of roadblocks that had been put in the way that prevented it from being done at those times.

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

J. Maurice presented this idea to the Committee. The member has been working with Indigenous communities, more specifically with youth in those communities, and feels that there are some problems with the Committees current land acknowledgement and would like to bring forward a new version for the Committee to use.

The Committee offered very supportive feedback to J. Maurice and is looking forward to something coming forward at a future meeting.

For review, V. Nikolskaya will provide the acknowledgment read at committee meetings and staff will provide the City's land acknowledgement.

(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 updated the Committee about a number of discussions that had happened with City staff since the last meeting including that part of the Citizen Committee Report submitted in January 2020 requested that members of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee be allowed to participate in the selection process.

There has been no further discussion on this matter and the Chair has inquired as to how this would take place. There were discussions about privacy concerns, confidentiality, and the possibility of an impartial review with redacted applications. Staff will follow up with this request and report back at the next meeting.

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

P. Kajiura let the Committee know that the advertising campaign would be underway soon and that the artist, Matthew Crans, made several changes to the design based on the Committee's feedback. The Committee was happy with the changes and was

excited for recruitment to begin.

Members discussed barriers to the application process, including that applicants would be forced to include a cover letter and resume. P. Kajiura said she would take this back to staff and report back on this requirement as soon as possible.

Everyone on the Committee will be provided with copies of the ads to share with their networks when they have been finalized.

Members remarked on how appreciative they were that the City followed through on many of the recommendations put forward and that a member of a 2SLGBTQIA+ community was recruited to design the campaign.

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

(F. Gray / V. Nikolskaya)

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

CARRIED