



**- MINUTES -**  
**LGBTQ Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, July 21, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Room 171, City Hall**

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**PRESENT:** Rob Brown, Kerry Cranston, Deirdre Dixon,  
David Gunton, Ryan McComb, Marlon Picken,  
Debbie Wooldridge

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jane Lee (City of Hamilton)

**REGRETS:** Gord Jackson, Lisa Morris, Michelle Poirier,  
Renee Wetselaar

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order. It was established that there were enough committee members present for quorum.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Meeting of January 20, 2011**

**(D.Wooldridge/D.Dixon)**

That the minutes of the January 20, 2011 LGBTQ Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. **CARRIED.**

**3.2 Meeting of May 19, 2011**

Minor wording corrections were made to page 3 in the section about the Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles.

**(D.Dixon/D.Woolridge)**

That the minutes of the May 19, 2011 LGBTQ Advisory Committee be approved as amended. **CARRIED.**

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The following items were added to the agenda:

5.10 Are You Queer Banner Update

5.11 Positive Space Collaborative Meeting, Friday, June 22

The agenda was approved as amended.

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**5.1 Discussion of LGBTQ Community Needs Assessment**

Round table discussion of needs assessment generated the following comments/observations by committee members:

- concerns that some of the info in report is outdated
- concerns about the limited venues used to collect data
- strong concerns about the missing voices of trans community; widows/widowers; seniors; newcomers; visible minorities; youth; differently abled; survey only done in English
- good to see training by service providers as an issue in report
- some discussion re: equity & the idea that perhaps the LGBTQ community needs to address the issues of equity/marginalization/oppression within our own community. Must address visibility/invisibility more consciously. Community would benefit from looking inward before we look outward to larger Hamilton community.
- needs assessment is valuable as it represents the only piece of documentation the Hamilton LGBTQ community has concerning our specific thoughts on problem areas
- committee would like to hear update on where document now stands
- still strong need for LGBTQ community space
- positive space program in high schools has had strong growth since update
- need to move beyond survey status and focus on stage 2
- need to ensure that recommendations chosen by the LGBTQ city advisory committee addresses City of Hamilton issues/concerns

**5.2 Hamilton Suicide Prevention Strategy & Declaration of Support**

It was suggested that some changes be made to the report to make it more inclusive of LGBTQ community and that it would be helpful to invite a representative from Suicide Prevention Committee to a future meeting to discuss with LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

Jane advised that the report had already been signed by the Mayor, but that it has not yet been presented to Council (and may not be).

The wording of the declaration indicates that it is a living document and will be updated.

**(D.Wooldridge/K.Cranston)**

That a representative from the Suicide Prevention Committee be invited to the September meeting of LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED.**

**5.3 Information on Signage/Posting of Curfews in City Parks**

Jane provided the response from City Parks staff regarding curfew signage in City parks. A question arose about whether Dundurn Park is covered by the Culture Division or Parks Division.

The Police advised one of the committee members that they respond to bylaw enforcement only on receiving a complaint from the public. A general enquiry will be made to see how much time is spent by police patrolling all city parks & how many tickets are issued, at the Hamilton Police Advisory Committee and members of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee will be updated once the information has been received.

The AIDS Network has been asked that their volunteers advise people in the park of the curfew.

Jane will contact Parks/Culture Divisions to ensure that signs posted at the entrances to all city parks contain a full overview of the bylaw as presented in the sample sign provided in response to the first request for information. Also, a follow-up request for clarification will be made with respect to Dundurn Castle.

**5.4 Development of Principles of Respectful Meetings**

This item was deferred to the August meeting.

**5.5 Media Spokesperson for LGBTQ Advisory Committee**

Following discussion the following motion was passed.

**(K.Cranston/D.Gunton)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee continue the existing protocol of the Committee Chairperson being the media spokesperson.

**CARRIED.**

**5.6 Possible Fall Conference Concerning LGBTQ  
Community Initiatives**

The conference idea is long-term goal for Spring/Fall 2012. Further discussion on this item was deferred to the August meeting.

**5.7 Training Component for Sport Coaches, etc. - Battling Homophobia/Transphobia In Sport**

This item was deferred to the August meeting.

**5.8 Consent Form for Distribution of Contact Info to Committee Members**

Contact information of committee members was distributed, with all members having consented to sharing of the information with each other.

The committee was informed that Lillian has resigned due to her work schedule. Her contact info will be removed.

**5.9 Next Meeting: August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 5:30 pm**

The next meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Members will be asked to RSVP the week prior to the meeting to ensure quorum.

**5.10 Are you Queer Banner Update**

Dixon advised committee members that there were over 2,000 hits on website during the weeklong campaign. The final stats on feedback are not yet available.

The banner used for the Are You Queer Campaign was removed by City staff and put into storage. A Well board member went to retrieve the banner and was told that depot staff had cleaned out old banners & the Are You Queer banner was thrown away.

As the LGBTQ Advisory Committee reserved the space for the banner, the Well requested that the Committee ask for an internal City investigation. Jane agreed to make some informal enquiries about City procedure for banner disposal.

**5.11 Hamilton Positive Space Collective Meeting**

Debbie currently represents the LGBTQ Advisory Committee at the HPSC meetings. However, due to a change in her work schedule, she will no longer be able to do so & a replacement needs to be found and a letter of support for that individual needs to be sent to HPSC. HPSC meetings are the third Friday of each month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Rob offered to attend on behalf of committee effective August 2011.

**(M.Picken/K.Cranston)**

That Rob Brown be appointed as the LGBTQ Advisory Committee's representative at the Hamilton Positive Space Collective meetings.

**CARRIED.**

**6. INFORMATION SHARING:**

6.1 Dixon: The Well has been trying to negotiate an LGBTQ training component for the Hamilton Police Service mandatory block training for several years. Hamilton Police Service has just approached the John Howard Society to partner on an initiative on police education based on the training that EGALE (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere) is doing across Canada. Concern over the lack of consultation with the local LGBTQ community & the possible failure to address specific Hamilton-community issues. EGALE's training is hate crime report-oriented and does not deal with helping victims at the time of the incident or providing/referring the victim for follow-up care.

6.2 Marlon: The United Steelworkers Local 1005 Community Picnic for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1946 strike to be held at Gage Park on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 11:00 pm. Everyone welcome

6.3 Rob: This weekend is the Coronation for the Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth. Activities include Thursday party at Walt's Beanery in Jackson Square; Friday night at the Embassy & Saturday at the Sheridan Hotel on King Street West.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Minutes Recorded by Kerry