



Hamilton

**- MINUTES -**  
**LGBTQ Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Room 222, City Hall**

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**PRESENT:** Rob Brown, Kerry Cranston, Deirdre Dixon, David Gunton,  
Gord Jackson, Marlon Picken, Renee Wetselaar

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jane Lee, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa (City of Hamilton)  
Jae Adams (The Well)

**REGRETS:** Michelle Poirier, Debbie Wooldridge (LoA)

**1. WELCOME**

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**(Renee/ Rob)**

That the minutes of the January 19, 2011 meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**4. AGENDA**

A change was made to the agenda – HPSC not attending.

**(Kerry/ Gord)**

That the agenda for the February 16, 2012 meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**4.1 Discussion of Agenda Format for Future Meetings**

A “Reports” section will be added to the agenda so that Committee members, representing the Advisory Committee on other committees, can inform members of developments. Reports will be requested from Community Space Subcommittee (Marlon, Renee); Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative (Rob); Suicide Prevention Equity-Seeking Group (Kerry); Hamilton Police Services Task Force (David, Kerry); updates about contact via Advisory email account (Marlon, Kerry).

Discussion also took place regarding the wording for “business items” and where it should be placed in agenda. Marlon to create new agenda layout and send to Jane and Renee for further discussion.

**5. DELEGATION**

**5.1 Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative**

The representative was not able to attend. Deirdre requested to meet with the Advisory Committee at their March meeting.

**5.2 The Well – Jae Adams**

The Well Board wanted to touch base with the new LGBTQ Advisory Committee to outline their programs, services and strategic directions. The following points were made:

- background of the Well provided – Trillium Grant; mostly volunteer based programming with one paid, part-time coordinator; variety of programs & services
- facilitators are volunteers, but the Well wants to ensure all facilitators are skilled and will commit to long-term association
- strong need/demand for Trans outreach
- recreational programs such as running group and coffee night thriving
- strong desire to have programs that can help develop youth to be engaged with the community as they enter adulthood
- sexual health training important
- trying to connect teens confronting homophobia group with planned parenthood
- Well is concerned about coordination of services & programs in LGBTQ community as duplication of services not wanted by City Council or Trillium in terms of money spent/re-invention of wheel
- would like to expand services/programs to outlying areas, not just in downtown core
- space is ongoing concern: hard to find accessible, safe spaces; cost of renting space for office and additional programs, events, etc. is ongoing concern
- trying to reach out more to City Council and the community at large
- provide LGBTQ training to community groups such as: HWDSB; Mission Services; Catholic Family Services; Good Shepard Women’s Centres
- important that anyone accessing Catholic Family Services have the option to speak with someone who has had LGBTQ training
- participate on Suicide Prevention Council Roundtable
- current partnerships with community organizations: Trillium; Hamilton Community Foundation; McMaster University; Redeemer College; Mohawk College; SPRC; John Howard Society (RHVN Program); SACHA; AIDS Network; Living Rock; Rainbow Health Ontario; McMaster Health Sciences
- trying to identify gaps in existing services that require LGBTQ community members to access those services elsewhere
- exploring how LGBTQ groups in other cities to discover their process; how they developed, what worked, what didn’t
- fundraising and donor relations are an identified area of weakness the Well is trying to address

Marlon thanked Jae for speaking with us. He expressed eagerness in the Advisory Committee collaborating with the Well. The Advisory Committee is currently focusing on space concerns as a need identified by community members. Suicide prevention is an important piece that the Advisory Committee is still interested in working on with community roundtable.

Jae advised that there have been some positive changes at Suicide Prevention Council recently & the Well are hopeful of moving forward with their concerns. A request was made for the Well to provide some specific information about local suicide component to the Advisory Committee prior to our meeting with Public Health in March.

In response to questions, Jae noted that the Well is a registered charity.

The Well must be prepared to face systemic homophobia when making connections with other groups. They must focus on their services, but not get pulled into other larger groups. The Well should be prepared to face some hostility as they move into areas serviced by other groups (i.e. the Advisory Committee is preparing to face hostility as we address space concerns in community).

The YWCA has a few rooms for use by non-profit groups at no charge. The Well should explore this option.

## **6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **6.1 LGBTQ Email Account**

Kerry requested the Advisory Committee look at establishing an email account so that community members can contact the committee as a whole, rather than contacting individuals through personal email accounts.

Jane confirmed that a g-mail account had been set-up by the previous Committee, but it was never used & the moniker doesn't match the current moniker of LGBTQ. We would not be able to use the hamilton.ca host.

Discussion of the accountability of the person accessing email on behalf of the Advisory Committee took place. An orientation manual is to be created for future Advisory Committee members. Renee to write protocol & a few options for email address. Marlon feels answering email account should be responsibility of the Chair or Vice-Chair.

### **6.2 Update on Planning for Space Subcommittee**

Invitations have been sent to stakeholders to attend a community meeting on February 29, 2012. The subcommittee agreed that a consultant is not required as the meeting should be a less-formal exchange of ideas with stakeholder groups. The focus of the evening will be giving stakeholders information regarding the direction from City Council and requesting feedback from stakeholders concerning immediate needs.

David indicated that he was unavailable to attend on February 29.

The Terms of Reference for Space Subcommittee will be tabled for the time being while we take the intermediate step.  
City staff to help connect needs & resources.

### **6.3 Banner Discussion**

#### **(Kerry/ Renee)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee discuss the banner possibilities at the public meeting on space on February 29, 2012 and request expression of interest, message, use at City Hall, recognition of sponsors. **CARRIED**

Renee will draft something to distribute at February 29th meeting.

#### **(Renee/ Kerry)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee obtain input/feedback from stakeholders about planning for Pride 2012, moving forward with planning/implementation. **CARRIED**

Kerry to draft a letter to distribute at February 29th meeting.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Confidentiality of Advisory Committee**

In response to questions from the space subcommittee, Jane advised that the LGBTQ Advisory Committee is a public committee and any discussions or materials are public. The times when confidentiality would be invoked are very rare/specific and these would be in cases when there is a legal issue or an identifiable individual being discussed. Anyone can attend Advisory Committee meetings at any time.

David reminded Committee members that personal boundaries are important and it must be recognized that we represent all LGBTQ community members. Committee members sit as individuals, not representatives of outside agencies. The Advisory Committee must be fair to everyone in the community and work equally well with all LGBTQ groups/organizations. Favoritism cannot be shown to any group or individual at the expense of others. individual committee members' identities and biases should not be brought to the table. The Committee must remain neutral.

Renee voiced the need for internal literature to explain the Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference and to shape the image of Advisory Committee as an email account is established. This should form part of the workplan.

#### **(David/Kerry)**

That Renee be requested to find a copy of workplan previously created by SPRC for the previous LGTBQ Advisory Committee and circulate it to current committee members; and

That May-Marie be requested to email the tri-fold pamphlet created for the Open House to committee members for discussion of possible use. **CARRIED**

**8. INFORMATION SHARING**

David – March 12th at 9:00 am the AIDS Network and Mohawk College will be presenting the documentary “We Were Here”. Seats are free, but space is limited.

Marlon – Peggy Nash (queer-positive NDP) is having free event at Workers’ Arts & Heritage Centre on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Free.

Gord – CFMU is currently fundraising for programming.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion (**Kerry/Rob**) the meeting adjourned.