



Hamilton

- MINUTES -
LGBTQ Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 15, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.
Room 222, City Hall

PRESENT: Kerry Cranston, David Gunton, Gord Jackson, Marlon Picken,
Michelle Poirier, Renee Wetselaar

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Lee, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa (City of Hamilton)
Jacqui Candlish (City of Hamilton – Public Health Department)
Deirdre Pike (Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative (HPSC))

REGRETS: Rob Brown, D. Dixon, Debbie Wooldridge (LoA)

1. WELCOME

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(David/ Gord)

That the minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory
Committee be accepted, as circulated. **CARRIED**

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jane requested that the Mayor's response to invitation for Pride be added to
agenda.

(David/ Kerry).

That the agenda for the March 15, 2012 meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory
Committee be accepted, as amended. **CARRIED**

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Jacqui Candlish – Public Health re Suicide Prevention Strategy

Committee members welcomed Jacqui Candlish. The following is highlights of a
discussion of suicide in general and is not specific to LGBTQ community.

- history of suicide prevention strategy: 6 teens died by suicide in 2004 & HWDSB approached public health for help. Forums were set-up to get community feedback on suicide prevention needs,
- a public health nurse sits on the Suicide Prevention Council
- continue to build momentum and keep Suicide Prevention council working
- Public Health tasks:
 - Surveillance – how big is problem
 - identify reasons for 4:1 ratio of male-female suicide (social/ cultural?)
 - suicide awareness needs to be built within Public Health & larger community
- there's been an increase in suicides between 1999-2005
- Public Health Department collaborates on suicide prevention with St Joe's, COAST, Hamilton Police Services, Victims Services
- need a broad approach to prevention as risk factors vary widely
- need to reduce risk factors (primary prevention)
- identify people who can assist those at risk of suicide (secondary prevention).
Examples: gatekeeper training; Jack Project (youth-peer support); strength-building; recognition of signs/patterns of depression

Discussion continued about the roundtable. Highlights included:

- Renee – data collection/analysis of LGBTQ stats needed
- Gord – does gatekeeper training include LGBTQ/positive space training?
- poverty, stigma of mental health important to consider
- homophobia makes it difficult/ unwelcoming for LGBTQ community members to access services
- Jacqui – Advisory Committee should stay in contact with Suicide Prevention Council to continue to create change & give community feedback; SPC is developing this strategy from scratch, lots of opportunity to add to document
- discussion of youth resources, but also need for resources for adults; positive space training for public health frontline nurses and suicide prevention staff

(Renee/Kerry)

That the City of Hamilton LGBTQ Advisory Committee request that public health nurses and suicide prevention staff take positive space training. **CARRIED**

5.2 Deirdre Pike – Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative

Committee members welcomed Deirdre Pike.

- advised that HPSC is a collaboration of various groups who work together to create a positive environment for LGBTQ individuals
- HPSC has no programs, but they do facilitate dialogue between groups
- HPSC Terms of Reference were distributed for Advisory members to review
- HPSC invited Advisory Committee members to a meeting with HPSC and Hamilton Police Services on April 3rd

(David/ Renee)

That the City of Hamilton LGBTQ Advisory Committee send a delegation to the April 3, 2012 meeting with Hamilton Positive Space Collaboration and Hamilton Police Services. **CARRIED**

It was decided that the LGBTQ Advisory Committee delegation would consist of Marlon, Kerry and Rob.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was provided.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Community Space Subcommittee

Marlon reported that the Community Space Subcommittee had met with various members of LGBTQ community. During discussion the next steps for space were identified; the needs of different groups identified. The groups not at table identified will be contact by the Advisory Committee. A steering committee is to be formed.

7.2 Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative

No report. Rob absent from meeting.

7.3 Suicide Prevention Strategy Community Group

Kerry advised that no progress had taken place and that there was nothing to report.

7.4 Hamilton Police Task Force

Kerry reported that no meeting had taken place in March. The April meeting is scheduled for April 12th, which is the same night as Advisory Committee meeting. HPS declined to change date when requested.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Email Account Update

Jane reported that there were no concerns from City about Advisory Committee setting up an email account; however, it can't be a city account (i.e., not Hamilton.ca). Communications staff noted that permission from the City is not required. Renee volunteered to come up with possible names for email address.

8.2 Banner Discussion:

- 2 to 3 weeks needed to make banner once theme/wording decided
- time needed to create design
- discussion required for funding for banner – no indication that Advisory Committee will pay full costs of banner
- Jane to provide a budget update at April Advisory Committee meeting
- Marlon will send letters of interest
 - deadline should be April 1st so Advisory Committee can decide at April meeting

8.3 LGBTQ Workplan

Renee will bring a template to present for Advisory Committee approval at April meeting. This item was tabled for further discussion.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Pride

Jane advised that the Pride flag will be raised at City Hall on Monday, June 11th & Mayor will the flag raising ceremony attend. A discussion of Pride to be added to the April agenda.

10. INFORMATION SHARING

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.