



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Audit, Finance and Administration Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: December 9, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: LGBTQ Space Needs Follow Up (FCS11104(f)) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Mike Zegarac Acting General Manager Finance & Corporate Services	PREPARED BY: Jane Lee 905 546-2424 ext. 2654
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction: On June 10, 2013, the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee approved the following motion, subsequently approved by Council on June 12, 2013:

That staff continue to report every 6 months with respect to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Space Requirements.

Information:

In 2008, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Needs Assessment was presented to the Committee of the Whole. This community research study was completed by the Hamilton Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC) on behalf of Hamilton Pride with funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation. Over 200 members of the LGBTQ community participated and provided input to this study identifying needs of the LGBTQ community. On November 30, 2011, the following motion was approved by Council with respect to space needs, as identified in the 2008 research:

That staff be directed to investigate the possibility of available space, within City facilities, for use by the LGBTQ Advisory Committee and its community partners to meet to and carry out the recommendations outlined in Report FCS11104, the Needs Assessment of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Community of Hamilton.

That, should space not be available through the City, staff be directed to prepare a feasibility study respecting the requirements for that space, and report to the Audit, Finance & Administration Committee.

Immediate space needs were addressed by LGBTQ community groups through other community partners.

A collaborative group of community members have been meeting with the City since February, 2012 with respect to LGBTQ space needs. As noted in the June update to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee, the LGBTQ Wellness Centre, as an initial step, is undertaking community research related to their areas of focus and programming. Their research includes community consultation, and as part of their research, they will be obtaining information related to community needs for space.

The researchers have recently been hired and the research has commenced. The assessment of space needs will take place over the next year, and the City and the community collaborative expect results in the fall of 2014. Two members of the Steering Committee are participating on the Advisory Committee for the project. In addition, at their most recent meeting, the Space Needs Steering Committee has started identifying what will be needed to complete a feasibility study, once the needs assessment information is compiled and the report submitted. A 2014 capital budget request was submitted for funding to undertake the feasibility study in 2014.

Staff will continue to report every 6 months with respect to the LGBTQ space needs.