

Minutes

Monday, December 09, 2019

Ante Room at 5:45 p.m.

Attendance:

Member name redacted for privacy, William Clarke-Coward (arrived at 6:00 pm)
Marissa Daniels, Sharon Paton, Stephanie Vail

Absent

Enzo DeDivitiis, Rob Gill, Lindsay McCormick, LeeAnn Pocknell

Staff Liaison:

Marla Terreberry-Portfilio

1. **Call meeting to order**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm.
2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**
The Chair acknowledged that the land on which Council meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.
3. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Quorum was not achieved at the beginning of the meeting. As one committee member had indicated that they were running late but would be in attendance, the Chair requested that the meeting begin with the guest speakers making their presentations.
Quorum was achieved at 6:00 pm preceding agenda item 4.2.
4. **Presentations**
 - 4.1. **Brian Scriver, Chair, OUTniagara** provided a presentation regarding the services and supports they provide in the Niagara Region.
Brian Scriver provided information regarding the history and mission organization. He noted that OUTniagara is a not-for-profit community organization that began in

November 2004 with the purpose of uniting Niagara's sexual and gender-diverse community. He identified the mission of OUTniagara is to:

- Celebrate, inform, support and collaborate with the sexual and gender-diverse community of Niagara
- Contribute to the success of our partner organizations
- Preserve Niagara's queer history

BS identified that OUT Niagara:

- currently has two vacancies on their Board of Directors and they are actively seeking engaged individuals for these roles;
- develops partnerships throughout the Niagara Region; and
- is able to respond to current events and advocate for members of the gender and sexual diverse community;

Further information about OUTniagara can be found at www.OUTniagara.org or OUTniagara.ca

4.2. Suzanne Veenstra, Co-Chair, Fitzgerald Neighbours addressed the committee related to item 9.1 on the agenda. Suzanne Veenstra provided an overview of the history, goals and mission of the organization. Suzanne Veenstra conveyed Fitzgerald Neighbours support for the installation of a rainbow cross-walk at the Harriot Tubman School and expressed the associations willingness to assist with fundraising for this initiative should it be required.

More information about Fitzgerald Neighbours can be found at <https://fitzgeraldneighbours.ca>

5. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by: William Clarke-Coward

That the December 9, 2019 agenda of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be approved with the amendment that item 9.1 be moved to before item 8.

CARRIED

6. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved by: Marissa Daniels

That the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

7. Declarations of Interest

Marissa Daniels informed that she had personal involvement with respect to the homophobic bullying incident that occurred at Harriet Tubman School. She inquired if she needed to declare a conflict of interest for participating in the discussion/voting regarding item 9.1. She did not disclose a real or perceived financial or personal gain, rather Marissa informed she had knowledge of the situation and had involvement with advocacy efforts following the incident.

8. Business

8.1. Rainbow Crosswalk

The following motion was passed at the November 18, 2019 City Council meeting, and includes an action item for the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee:
Moved By: Councillor Miller

That Council refer a request to the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee to consider the addition of another rainbow crosswalk, to be placed near Harriett Tubman School following acts of homophobic bullying; and

That if the committee approves this as a site that this be included in the 2020 budget for possible spring implementation.

The members of the committee shared their knowledge of and concerns regarding bullying in schools, including at Harriet Tubman School, due to various reasons including sexual and gender diversity and other protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Committee members expressed concerns regarding the potential impact to other equity seeking groups who have experienced bullying instances within schools in St. Catharines should a rainbow crosswalk be put in place at Harriet Tubman School in response to this specific instance of homophobic bullying. Additionally, committee members shared their beliefs that more substantive action needs to be taken to eliminate bullying within schools in St. Catharines and that implementing a rainbow crosswalk without other substantive action could be seen as a band aid solution to a significant problem affecting many students with varying and intersecting identities. Committee members shared their beliefs that consultation with equity seeking groups regarding the impact of installing a rainbow crosswalk at the Harriet Tubman School in response to the homophobic bullying incident was required prior to recommending its installation.

Moved by: Sharon Paton.

That in light of the historical and ongoing instances of bullying on the basis of race, socio-economic status, gender, sexuality and other aspects of identity, within schools including at Harriet Tubman School, the committee recommends that consultation with other equity seeking groups across these intersections, including the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, be conducted before the committee can recommend the installation of a rainbow crosswalk at Harriet Tubman School in response to this particular incident of homophobic bullying.

CARRIED

9. **Business arising from the minutes**

9.1. Community Event or Professional Development Information Sharing

Committee members discussed the importance of being able to share information about events, information and opportunities that are relevant to equity seeking organizations, groups or individuals in St. Catharines at Committee meetings. Members expressed a desire to have a city provided/supported method (fillable form on website, email address) by which citizens could provide information about events, opportunities to committee members that they in turn could share at committee meetings. Additionally, an interest was expressed to seek a way to host information gathered on the committee's webpage.

Committee members discussed the need to have some parameters regarding the type of information that is shared.

Action item:

- Chair, Sharon Paton to create a statement regarding what is appropriate to share when this item is raised for member consideration at the next meeting.
- Staff Liaison, Marla Terreberry-Portfilio to gather information regarding the resources available to the committee to gather feedback/information from the community via City website existing technology infrastructure.

9.2. Work Plan Discussion Continued

A draft work plan was submitted via email by LeeAnn Paton regarding priority #2; Stephanie Vail submitted a draft work plan regarding priority #1; Marissa Daniels submitted a draft work plan for priority #3. As Rob Gill was not in attendance no information was received from Rob Gill regarding the draft work plan for priority #4.

Staff Liaison, Marla Terreberry-Portfilio will compile the draft work plans into one document and distribute to committee members for their review and input.

10. Date of next meeting

January 7, at 5:45 pm in the Ante Room, City Hall

11. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Stephanie Vail

That this meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED