

LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, September 01, 2021

Electronic Meeting at 5:45 pm

Attendance:

Liam Coward
Marissa Daniels (Vice-Chair)
Enzo DeDivitis
David Hall (joined at 5:49pm)
Rick Kennedy
Felipe Reis
Stephanie Vail
Committee Member (name redacted)

Absent:

Daniel Gutierrez
Brianna Irvine

Staff Liaison:

Shannon McHugh, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Call meeting to order – Acting Chair

R. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:48pm.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

R. Kennedy acknowledged that the land on which the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe 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. Committee Updates

a. Vacant Role Appointments

The

LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee
is an Advisory Committee of City Council



R. Kennedy confirmed that the role of Chair is vacant. M. Daniels took over as Chair for this portion of the meeting. M. Daniels called for any other interested parties for the role. There were none. R. Kennedy provided a summary of why he is interested and qualified for the role.

Moved by M. Daniels

That R. Kennedy be appointed as Chair of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee.

Carried

R. Kennedy then indicated that M. Daniels will continue as Vice-Chair and asked if anyone was interested in the role of Co-Vice-Chair. There was no one interested. M. Daniels will continue in the role of Vice-Chair.

b. Recruitment Updates and Introductions

R. Kennedy provided an update on the recruitment process and introduced new appointee, F. Reis. F. Reis introduced himself and the committee members did roundtable introductions.

c. New Staff Liaison, Shannon McHugh

R. Kennedy introduced new Staff Liaison, Shannon McHugh. S. McHugh introduced herself to the group with some information on the new role and her background.

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

R. Kennedy noted that Item 6 of the agenda should reflect that there are two previous meeting minutes to be approved from July 7, 2021 and August 4, 2021.

5. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by M. Daniels

That the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee approve the Agenda as amended.

Carried

6. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meetings

Moved by L. Coward.

That the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the July 7, 2021 meeting.

Carried

Moved by L. Coward.

That the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the August 4, 2021 meeting.

Carried

7. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

8. Business arising from the minutes

a. Creating Safer Spaces

R. Kennedy explained background of this item regarding incidences of harassment and lack of safety at City spaces.

L. Coward noted the link between this workplan item and the work of the Equitable Recovery Subcommittee. L. Coward reminded group of discussion on July 7, 2021 regarding incident at Sunset Beach. M. Daniels put forward idea of the City having trained staff in attendance at beach, as example.

S. McHugh to follow up on C. Switzer's efforts to enquire of staff what current training is provided to staff on this issue (see July meeting minutes).

Committee discussed potential of having member of Niagara Regional Police attend at committee meeting to discuss safer spaces. Potential issue of jurisdiction as Niagara Regional Police is not governed by the City and police sometimes do not create safe spaces for the LGBTQ2+ community. E. DeDevitis confirms that Niagara Regional Police does have a liaison to the LGBTQ2+ community and will send contact information.

b. LGBTQ2+ Representation on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

M. Daniels is unable to continue to attend and L. Coward has been attending in her place. L. Coward put his name forward as the representative. No other interested parties.

Moved by E. DeDevitis

That L. Coward be appointed the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee Representative at the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Carried

9. Business

a. 9.1 Equitable Recovery Subcommittee Update

L. Coward updated the committee on the work of the Equitable Recovery Subcommittee's substantial work over the summer. He encouraged the committee to thoroughly review the document to be reviewed for comment at the October 6, 2021 for a hopeful motion of endorsement.

b. 9.2 Social Category Update

M. Daniels updated the committee. There is a running list of organizations created by the committee in the 'social' category that was being kept by former liaison C. Switzer. S. McHugh will follow up to try and acquire the list to share. Outstanding categories now include 'business' and 'health'. The committee discussed what

sorts of businesses should be included on the list. Suggested businesses will be presented at next meeting with health to be discussed in November.

c. 9.2 Workplan Discussion

Workplan is in draft form and needs to be reviewed. R. Kennedy suggested issue of conversion therapy should be added to the workplan and provided preliminary research to committee. Discussion by the group. L. Coward and M. Daniels suggested the issue could be dealt with today.

Moved L. Coward

WHEREAS the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee is aware of the harmful effects of conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS other municipalities (including, but not limited to: St. Albert, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatoon) have taken steps to address and limit the harmful effects of conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS the Federal government neglected to pass bill C-6 banning conversion therapy;

The Committee advises Council to explore steps taken by other municipalities to acknowledge the harmful effects of conversion therapy by banning the practice of it.

Carried

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, October 06, 2021 at 5:45pm

11. Motion to Adjourn

Before adjourning, R. Kennedy acknowledged the work and dedication of C. Switzer in her role as Staff Liaison before S. McHugh and the committee expressed their thanks to her.

Moved by M. Daniels that the September 1, 2021 meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.