

LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, March 02, 2022

Electronic Meeting at 5:45pm

Attendance:

Liam Coward
David Hall
Rick Kennedy, Chair
Deb Pearce
Rin Simon
Stephanie Vail

Absent:

Marissa Daniels
Enzo DeDivitiis
Committee Member, Name Redacted

Staff Liaison:

Chantal Switzer, CSS Coordinator
Anika Forde, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

R. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:48pm.
Councilor Robin McPherson attended the meeting as a guest and introductions were made.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

David Hall 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. Acknowledgment of Trans Day of Visibility

S. Vail shared that Trans Day is on March 31, 2022, and that the day is dedicated to Trans, Intersex, 2 spirit and non-binary individuals and raises awareness of discrimination to gender diverse individuals.

S. Vail encouraged allies to the community to support the Gender Affirming Health Act which will improve gender affirming health care in Ontario.

R. Kennedy noted that Quest Community Health Care Centre in St. Catharines is at the forefront of providing care for people who are Trans.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

None.

5. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by D. Pearce

THAT the Agenda of the March 2, 2022, meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

6. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the February 2, 2022, meeting. Item 7 should be amended, and Dr. should be added to address Dr. Jill Andrew's title.

Moved by L. Coward

THAT the minutes of the February 2, 2022, meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be adopted as amended.

Carried

7. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

8. Business arising from the minutes

a. Updates:

- i. The Ontario Association of Municipalities featured a video of the installation of the St. Catharines' Rainbow Crosswalk.
- ii. The Accessibility Committee sought clarity on any concerns this committee has regarding the universal washrooms and will be inviting a member to attend their meeting.
- iii. Niagara Folk Arts has requested an opportunity to talk to the committee about their Newcomer program.
- iv. The Social Sustainability committee passed a motion that all committee members should be interviewed on their reasons for staying and reasons for leaving committees.
- v. Niagara Region invited members of the community to a recent workshop that focused on the Region's strategic plan and sought input on diversity, equity, and inclusion. As the plan develops information will be shared with committees.
- vi. The Region is looking at installing a Rainbow crosswalk and will be seeking input from the committee on design.

b. Workplan 2022

i. Identify and prioritize action items

A working group will identify priorities and actionable items and present a draft workplan at the April meeting for a fulsome discussion.

Potential opportunities for workplan items:

The Appointment Policy.

The Council Report template amended to include a section for Social Considerations.

L. Coward, R. Simon and R. Kennedy volunteered to be part of the working group.

Moved by R. Simon

To create a workplan working group and they will report back at the April meeting with a draft plan.

Carried as amended

Councilor McPherson stated that she looks forward to seeing the outcome of the committee's workplan. Councilor McPherson spoke about the Downtown Association and their eagerness to create safe spaces in the downtown.

Councilor McPherson noted that input will be sought from the Anti-Racism and LGBTQ2+ Advisory committees on the Social Procurement Policy which was taken to Council.

As it is election year, Councilor McPherson stated that April 25, 2022, is the last day councilors can ask for a report from staff.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, April 06, 2022 at 5:45pm

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by R. Simon

THAT the March 2, 2022, meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.