

## Draft Minutes

**Wednesday, September 07, 2022**

**Electronic Participation at 5:45pm**

### **Attendance:**

Rick Kennedy, Chair  
Deb Pearce, Vice Chair  
David Hall  
Enzo DeDivitiis  
Stephanie Vail

### **Absent:**

Liam Coward

### **Staff Liaison**

Anika Forde – Manager, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

### **Guest Speakers**

Rob Belchior, Small Business Consultant  
Sarah Lettow, My MainStreet Ambassador

- 
1. **Call meeting to order (Chair)**  
R. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m.
  2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**  
S. Vail 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. **Recognition of Significant Dates**
    - Bisexuality Visibility Day – September 23

S. Vail shared a background and history of bisexuality Visibility Day, which is celebrated every year during Bisexuality week September 17- 24.

4. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**

R. Kennedy recommended item #1 Creating & Identifying Safer spaces discussion be deferred to the next meeting and move the presentation by the Guest Speakers prior to the fulfillment of the workplan agenda items.

5. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by D. Pearce

THAT the Agenda of September 7, 2022 meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

**Carried**

6. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of June & July 6**

Moved by D. Hall

THAT the Committee approve the minutes of June 8, 2022, and July 6, 2022 be approved as amended.

**Carried**

7. **Declarations of Interest**

There are none.

8. **Business arising from the minutes**

- Committee Membership
  - R. Kennedy acknowledged the contributions of founding member resigned.
  - As committees are nearing the end of their term, recruitment will not be taking place at this time.
- July meeting cancellation
  - Meeting was cancelled as quorum was not achieved.

9. **Business**

**9.1 Fulfillment of Workplan**

- Item 1: Creating and Identifying Safer Spaces
  - Update – L. Coward
  - Discussion
    - No presentation took place as this item was deferred to next meeting.
- Item 2: Supporting LGBTQ2S+ owned or led businesses and non-profits as engines for social inclusion that increase the wellbeing and prosperity of diverse communities
  - Guest Presentation – My Mainstreet Representative

- R. Belchior & S. Lettow provided an introduction as well background for the project as well as highlighted the need to promote the program to the LGBTQ2+ communities in St. Catharines.
  - Questions / comments shared by committee members on (1) what other possible grants/funding is available to the LGBTQ2+ communities; (2) who and how would recommendations from the committee be directed to; (3) request for more information on what can be shared within the community to promote further.
- Update – D. Pearce & E. DeDivitis
  - Work is continuing, more detail can be provided at next meeting.
- Discussion
- Item 3: Deepening commitment to Gender Diversity and LGBTQ2S+ equity by developing and supporting local initiatives
  - Update & responses from Electricity Human Resources Canada (EHRC) – R. Kennedy & S. Vail
    - Presentation was made which included responses from the representative from EHRC. Presentation that highlighted the need to revisit the language and commitment on what gender diversity entails and how it may be exclusionary as it solely focused on gender binaries.
  - Discussion

## **9.2 Meridian Centre Performance & R Zone Policy Discussion**

- D. Pearce provided an update on the events that took place at the August 28 Council Meeting regarding a planned Meridian Centre Performance.
- Discussion took place on how the city can more broadly enforce and encourage respect of human rights, and respect within public spaces.
- Committee members discussed their views, support and opinions on the proposed resolution with the intent of bringing the resolution forward in an upcoming meeting

**10. Date of next meeting – October 5, 2022 at 5:45pm.**

## **11. Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by E. DeDivitiis

That, there being no further items of business, this meeting be adjourned at 6:45pm

**Carried**