PRESENT: Simon Lebrun, Debbie Woolridge, Deirdre Pike

ALSO PRESENT: Joe-Anne Priel, Joe Whelan, Jane Lee

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Simon called the meeting to order and introductions were made, including Joe-Anne Priel, General Manager of Community Services and Joe Whelan, Chair of Hamilton Pride Inc.

2. THE HAMILTON PRIDE PAGES

Joe-Anne Priel noted that she has no issue with Pride Pages, and recognized the need for distribution of community information to the GLBTQ community. She provided background about the concerns in last year’s edition, particularly concern about one or two ads. Some complaints had been received from Sackville Hill. The Director of Recreation has the authority to decide whether to display the books or not. One ad in particular was an ad for telephone sex. She noted that initially the Pride Pages were pulled off the shelf and put behind the counter on her direction. The City has no clear policy for a situation like this. The Pride Pages were eventually put back on the shelf.

Joe-Anne noted concerns recently around other ads re transit shelters. The City Senior Management Team has now decided to have a discussion about advertising. She noted that we do not want to prevent information from getting to the community. Joe-Anne expressed concerns generally about the type of advertising that is now available in the community, in print, and on TV.

Committee members and Joe Whelan noted how important it is that the community listings get to members of the LGBTQ community and the need for these publications to be widely available. They particularly expressed concerns about them being readily available for questioning youth, and noted that there are also senior members of the LGBTQ community who would benefit from the publications. They need to be readily available in safe spaces. Concerns were expressed about censorship, and it was noted that the same number had been in previous publications.

It was noted that the publication, Hamilton Pride Pages is a publication of Hamilton Pride Inc. and is not a City publication. The City and the GLBT Advisory Committee
do not have editorial control. Hamilton Pride should determine, given its audience and the distribution that it would like to see, what it’s policy would be on content.

Joe Whelan questioned what will happen this year with respect to the support from the GLBT Advisory Committee, the advertising from the City and the distribution of the Pride Pages in City facilities. He noted that April 2nd is the advertising deadline for the 2008 Pride Pages.

Joe-Anne noted that there would be no changes without a City policy. She noted that the senior management had started a process to discuss the possibility of a policy.

Simon Lebrun noted that there should be community consultation on any policy being considered and that the committee would request to be included as a stakeholder in the policy development.

The committee agreed to make a motion at their next meeting formally requesting input into the policy development.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.