PRESENT: Marlon Picken, David Gunton, Deirdre Dixon, Ryan McComb, Rob Brown, Debbie Wooldridge, Kerry Cranston, Gord Jackson, Michelle Poirier

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Lee (City of Hamilton)
                Deirdre Pike (SPRC)

REGRETS: Renee Wetselaar, Kristeen Sprague

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Marlon welcomed Deirdre Pike, our guest speaker from Social Planning & Research Council (SPRC) & asked committee members to introduce themselves to Deirdre.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(G. Jackson/D. Gunton)
That the minutes of the meeting of July 21, 2011 be approved. CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Lee noted that there was correspondence from Gillian Hendry, Director of Housing and Homelessness, requesting an opportunity to get input with respect to an engagement plan at a future meeting. This item was added to the agenda.

(K. Cranston/R. Brown)
That the agenda be approved as amended. CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

5.1 Presentation by Deirdre Pike, SPRC re: Findings of the 2010-2011 Update of the LGBTQ Needs Assessment
Background:
The LGBTQ Needs Assessment was originally begun through a request from Hamilton Pride Festival Inc. Hamilton Pride applied for Trillium funding to conduct research with respect to the needs of Hamilton’s LGBTQ community. SPRC received the contract to complete the report.

D. Pike acknowledged some of the shortcomings noted by committee members in the July minutes. She noted that she accepts that the info in the report is outdated, but believes it is still relevant to the community; that some groups were not represented equally in the report, but that it is not always easy to get people to participate. She noted that Public Health did a survey in 2001, but only received 25 participants. SPRC had 170 completed surveys & six focus groups (including a trans focus group). The original Needs Assessment cost $20,000. On the positive D. Pike noted that funders still pay attention to the Needs Assessment information.

Updates to Report (Queer Voices Straight Up):
D. Pike provided background information and information collected as part of the Needs Assessment update. The update was led by the SPRC and coordinated by a number of community members & LGBTQ Wellness Centre personnel who created a committee to hold an information forum. The Committee selected 14 questions for forum participants to address, with self-selection by participants. A total of 80 people participated in the two sessions. The City’s Advisory Committee partnered in support of this forum, and provided funding for honorariums for guest speakers, food, materials, etc. The funding for the forum included the City’s Advisory Committee ($1,000), the Well ($500), and SPRC ($1,000).

Findings from the forum included:
- Need for safe community space is still a top issue
- Health care and mental health continues to be a priority area – lack of awareness and understanding of LGBTQ issues in the medical profession, and fear about accessing services
- Education about LGBTQ issues needs to be a priority in schools, the community and for parents
- Older adults and the aging population is an emerging issue; as LGBTQ friendly services are needed by aging community members, including Long Term Care facilities – this is becoming a major concern
- Hate crimes and the community relationship with the Police needs more work and attention; youth still face bullying

Developments:
Deirdre noted that there are a number of positive developments. There is good collaboration between the SPRC, the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, the LGBTQ Wellness Centre and the Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative.
1) Positive Space Training For Long Term Care Facilities
Toronto has a policy and training available for long term care facilities. SPRC have met with Hamilton Community Foundation seeking funding sources for development of a similar program. HCF suggested applying for Seniors funding. Positive space training is needed for staff of City owned long term care facilities (Macassa Lodge & Wentworth Lodge). It was noted that the same program should be in place for privately owned facilities.

2) Health Care
A community health research grant application is in the works. SPRC are in talks with Rainbow Health Ontario about trying to get private doctors and their office staff to take positive space training. Rainbow Health Ontario has a recognized program. D. Pike acknowledged the difficulty in getting doctors on board with program, and are trying to reach out through the Foundation of Family Medicine. Wellwood Cancer Centre has also offered to help reach out to oncologists.

3) Hamilton Police Service:
It was noted that it is hard to get HPS to agree to training. They require all officers to take “block training”, and have approached the Well about providing LGBTQ training, but wanted them to do it at no cost to HPS. It was noted that Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) provided block training last year with funding from Trillium grant. SPRC & the Well accepted the invitation to provide HPS block training. HPS acknowledged they would be able to provide some funds, but not all that is required by SPRC/Well, who will apply for Trillium grant to provide balance of funds. HPS has agreed to apply for funding to pay for block training on trans issues next year.

D. Pike left the advisory committee members with a summary of findings from Queer Voices, Straight Up and left the committee with a copy of the raw data. Advisory members are invited to forward any further questions that arise from update to Deirdre, who has agreed to return for follow-up with the advisory committee, if requested.

D. Pike suggested the advisory committee should focus on the community centre as the Mayor has been a supporter of this issue. She also stressed the importance of keeping LGBTQ community visible with projects like the Are You Queer banner. On behalf of the Advisory committee Marlon thanked Deirdre Pike for her presentation.

The advisory committee members agreed to read the information and discuss it at the September meeting. Jane asked the committee members to come to September meeting ready to discuss updates. She will also provide her report notes for the September meeting so members can read & suggest any changes, make comments. Advisory will not be bound to accept or make recommendations on the staff report.
5.2 Update on Curfew Signage at Dundurn Park
J. Lee provided an update in follow-up to the Committee’s request for curfew signage at Dundurn Park. City Parks & Culture staff were informed about advisory committee concerns about by-law enforcement on the City-owned property. Hamilton Police Service enforces the curfew by-law. Following a request on behalf of the Committee, a sign has been posted in the middle of the parking lot at Dundurn. City staff & the curator have requested that the Advisory Committee inform them if they have alternate preferred locations for the signage in the parking lot.

D. Gunton offered to go to Dundurn Park and see if location is appropriate for where most community members would be found in violation of curfew. Committee requested that City staff and the Dundurn Curator be sent a message of thanks on behalf of the advisory committee for their understanding of this issue and speedy action. The Advisory Committee will address preferred location of the signs at the September meeting.

5.3 Update on Are You Queer Banner
In follow-up to the Advisory Committee’s request in July, Public Works staff were contacted to follow-up on their concerns about the disposal of the banner. J. Lee noted that she has since been informed that the banner has been found and arrangements have been made to return the banner to the LGBTQ Wellness Centre. The committee discussed the matter and decided that the issue had been resolved and there was no need for further investigation.

Staff were requested to send a letter, on behalf of the advisory committee, to City staff who found and returned the banner, thanking them for their help.

5.4 Development of Principles of Respectful Meetings
(D. Gunton/G. Jackson)
That the Principles of Respectful Meetings be approved for use by the LGBTQ Advisory Committee. CARRIED

5.5 Training Component for Sport Coaches, Trainers & Assistants-Battling Homophobia in Sports
K. Cranston presented advisory committee members with a brief proposal for incorporating LGBTQ sensitivity into already required Speak Out Training program that is given to all hockey coaches, trainers & assistants. She noted that there is a section on bullying in the program, but that it does not address LGBTQ sensitivities and realities.

Committee members were interested in making it required for all sports. Kerry acknowledged that she’s only familiar with hockey & doesn’t know if Speak Out Program exists for all sports. However, the Speak Out program is a place to start.
(K. Cranston/D. Wooldridge)
That representatives from the Speak Out Program and City Parks and Recreation staff be invited to attend an upcoming meeting in October/November to discuss the possibility of incorporating LGBTQ sensitivities in the Speak Out training, with a view to inclusion in future training programs for other sports.

CARRIED

5.6 Possible 2012 Conference re: LGBTQ Community Initiatives
Committee members discussed whether or not they felt a conference should be delayed until a community space is secured. Members noted the need to focus on doing a few things well instead of many things haphazardly. It was noted that the conference is important, but that the update to the Needs Assessment seems to indicate that space is still priority for community members, and that perhaps the focus should be on facilitating collaboration between all the LGBTQ groups in the area to work together. A conference would establish the goals ahead of time & then a committee to address space issue could be created from main stakeholders. It was agreed that there is a lot of community consultation and collaboration to be undertaken in order to move forward with a safe community space for the LGBTQ community. The possibility of a conference will be put on the future initiatives list indefinitely so that the idea does not get lost. The committee discussed working with community partners on a process for establishing need, interest and a plan for a community space; noting the committee could possibly assist with costs of community consultation and facilitation.

(D. Gunton/D. Wooldridge)
That a subcommittee of the advisory committee be formed to dialogue with community partners/stakeholders regarding a process for initial investigation of a community space for the LGBTQ community.

CARRIED

The committee decided that the selection of the subcommittee would be deferred until the September meeting so that advisory members who are absent from tonight’s meeting can be here for selection process.

5.7 Suicide Prevention Community Conference, October 25th
J Lee advised that Dr. Albina Veltman from the Suicide Prevention Council had agreed to attend the September Advisory Committee meeting to make a brief presentation and discuss any questions/feedback from the committee. At the present time, the Suicide Prevention Council has decided not to make a presentation to City Council & they will continue to work on the Prevention Strategy. It was suggested that the advisory not present to Council on recommended changes to the document at least until further discussion can take place following the presentation at the September meeting.

The Suicide Prevention Council is hosting their annual Community Conference on October 25th at Carmen’s and the advisory committee could pay to send a representative. K. Cranston was suggested as she is the lead on this issue, but she is unable to attend due to work schedule. The committee deferred this matter to the September agenda for a decision at that time.
5.8 Resignation/ Leave of Absence
L. Moore has resigned from committee due to work commitments. K. Sprague has requested a three month leave of absence.

(D. Wooldridge/K. Cranston)
That K. Sprague be granted a three month leave of absence from the committee. CARRIED

5.9 Next Meeting: September 15th at 5:00
D. Wooldridge pointed out that the next meeting falls during Take Back the Night and she will be unable to attend. Committee members discussed the possibility of changing the meeting date or time.

Committee members agreed to move the start time of the next meeting to 5:00 pm to allow for Suicide Prevention & Community Services guest speakers and other agenda items before people had to leave to attend Take Back the Night.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Housing and Homelessness Action Plan – Community Engagement
J. Lee noted that a request had been received from Gillian Hendry from Community Services Housing & Homelessness Division to attend a future meeting with the advisory committee to reach out to members concerning their Housing & Homelessness plan, and to get feedback about their community engagement plan.

(G. Jackson/D. Gunton)
That Community Services be requested to attend the September meeting at 5:00 p.m. CARRIED

6.2 Positive Space Training for Country Style staff at City Hall
D. Wooldridge requested that the Country Style staff receive positive space training, even though they are not City personnel. Debbie said staff is amazing, but she feels they should receive training to ensure that all of City Hall is a positive space.

6.3 Recreation Needs Assessment
R. McComb noted that a friend who works for the City Recreation Division has requested a discussion with advisory members to obtain input from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee with respect to a Needs Assessment they are starting to work on. J. Lee will follow up with D. Clinton regarding the nature of the needs assessment, and to follow-up on details of the request.

7. INFORMATION SHARING
D. Gunton noted that the AIDS Walk is Sept 17th at Bayfront Park.

8. ADJOURNMENT
On motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.