- Revised MINUTES -

GLBT Advisory Committee
Thursday, June 24, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.
Room 193, City Hall

PRESENT: Simon Lebrun (Chair), Jae Adams, Deirdre Dixon, Lyla Miklos, Deirdre Pike, Debbie Woolridge

REGRETS: Councillor Bratina

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Lee – City of Hamilton

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
The meeting was called to order.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(J.Adams/D. Woolridge)
That the minutes of the GLBT Advisory Committee for May 11, 2010 be approved as circulated. CARRIED

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Strategic Plan – Workplan Development
Copy to be sent out to committee members in preparation for the conference call.

4.2 Needs Assessment
The Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative will provide time for a discussion with City staff at the September 17th or August 20th meetings. There will only be 2 or 3 agenda items, including a presentation on the Well. The City was encouraged to send a decision-maker to sit at the Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative (HPSC). Additionally, there is a Terms of Reference document that the Advisory Committee should review, to determine whether we would recommend that the City becomes an official member of the HPSC.

4.3 Awareness Campaign
The Awareness Campaign will be shared at the July meeting.
4.4 Results Update: International Day Against Homophobia
There was great feedback and good coverage for the event at Hill Park Secondary School. Coralee Secore brought a message from the City, which was well received. A concern was raised that participants and spectators of future LGBTQ events need guidance and support before the event to understand the implications of media coverage. This may include the use of waivers, signage, media handlers, media training and other techniques. This is particularly true as online media has an extended lifespan and many new non-traditional forms of media are emerging.

4.5 Results Update: Hamilton Pride Festival
Some members of the LGBTQ community have expressed feedback that the Hamilton Pride Festival is not reflective of the kind of celebration that they would like. Members of the community continue to express concerns that the Festival is not inclusive of all members of the community, particularly of women and trans people.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

5.1 Update – HWDSB Policy Meeting
No update. Find out if this has been addressed.

5.2 Summer Meetings
The committee will meet on Thursday, July 29, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

5.3 Staff Survey
It was noted that the Workforce Census will be launched in the Fall. The committee requested an update about the changes that were made to the language as a result of the committee’s input.

5.4 PanAm Games
The community has a wide range of opinions about participation in the Pan Am Games, and it will be important to incorporate this feedback into the City's plans. Some have raised the idea of pursuing a Pride House, similar to what was done at the last Olympics. Others have raised concerns that as the event nears, there will be an effort by the City and Police to "clean-up the streets", which inevitably has lasting negative consequences on members of marginalized communities such as the LGBTQ community. This issue will require ongoing community consultation. It was noted that World Pride will be in Toronto in 2014 and there may be opportunities to coordinate activities.

6. INFORMATION SHARING

6.1 A grant was received by teachers within the HWDSB (through the Ministry of Education) to develop a website resource to support teachers who are leading Positive Space Groups.

Revised July 29, 2010
6.2 LGBTQ Pride Service to be held at First Unitarian Church on Sunday, June 27, 2010.

6.3 Lyla and Debbie attended the Grand Re-opening of City Hall.

6.4 Statistics Canada has reported that there has been an increase in the number of reported hate crimes committed against the LGBTQ community across Canada, with the number of violent crimes committed being highest amongst this community. Hamilton Police Services has one of the more comprehensive reporting mechanisms into the StatsCan data compared to other police services who often do not track or report as effectively. To further underscore the problems within this community, the number of reports to the local www.hatecrimes.ca is much higher than the number of officially reported crimes as tracked by the Hamilton Police Service, suggesting there are still barriers to reporting to the police. The reporting and prosecution of hate crimes and incidences continues to be a major concern within the community and was discussed at a recent forum during Pride Week.

6.6 **Health Equity Conference in Toronto**

Dixon noted that Greta Bauer, investigating for TransPulse site, is processing data related to a health study. There is a bi-weekly 2 page bulletin available which can be signed up for on the website.

S. Brown, Associate Deputy Minister of Health spoke about LGBTQ access & equity in Ontario and noted a community consultation about access to sex reassignment surgery (SRS). There will be new assessors named for SRS across the province. Dixon noted that she questioned what pressure is coming from Ministry to LHINs regarding access to health care in an equitable fashion for members of the LGBTQ community. She will request the equity plan of the LHINs.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.