PRESENT: Jae Adams, Deirdre Dixon, Lyla Miklos, Debbie Woolridge

REGRETS: Simon Lebrun, Christina Tedesco (Leave of Absence), Councillor Bratina

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Lee – City of Hamilton

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
   Deirdre Dixon chaired the meeting in the absence of Simon Lebrun.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
   None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   (D.Woolridge/L.Miklos)
   That the February 19, 2009 minutes of the GLBT Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

   4.1 National Day Against Homophobia
   Jane obtained posters and brochures for International Day Against Homophobia. These were transferred to The Well to be distributed.

   4.2 Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative
   Hate Crimes / Homophobia Forum: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 – location TBA
   Format of the forum: recognition of victims of hate crimes/homophobia, panel discussion (including leaders from ethno-cultural communities), community feedback and small group sessions.

   Members of Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative (HPSC) and The Well will be meeting with Chief Librarian, Ken Roberts, to discuss the libraries plans for the promotion of their LGBTQ collection and service to members of the community. Lyla will check in about the HWDSB library to learn what they do to be maintain their collection in an LGBTQ-positive way.

   HPSC lately has been doing positive-space training with their members, so no other news to report.
4.3  **Strategic Plan**  
Jane checked into Vancouver and they have an advisory committee. Jane also checked into other committees within the City to look at some their practices. Equity policy will continue to be an important mechanism for affecting change.

In reviewing the various materials, the question to ask is, “What should the City be doing differently?”

Jae looked at Ottawa and they are ahead of the curve, so might be good to look at them. We’ve asked for information on their new strategic plan, which is being passed this summer. If possible, we’ll ask for whatever they can share for the first week of May to share with Jane.

We will look into another strategic planning session for June (Simon and Jane to meet with Karen to discuss).

4.4  **Hamilton Pride Festival**  
A community information session was held by Pride at an inconvenient time (4 p.m. on a weekday) at the police station. The Well asked for, and received feedback from concerned community members. Concerns raised regarding the timing, the location, the plans for Pride, GM timing (no membership applications have been accepted since November), lack of diversity on the Board, lack of effort to outreach to marginalized communities.

The question was asked if the advisory committee can do anything to address this issue? It was noted that HPFI receives a grant through the SEAT funding, and services in-kind. Our role ideally would be to be facilitate community consultation and then provide advice to Council based on the feedback. It was agreed that the advisory committee would wait until the April meeting to assess the situation, before taking any further action as a committee.

4.5  **Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition**  
Membership and support request is still on the table. Several members of The Well are meeting with the Rainbow Health Network, who may be able to provide guidance on which health organizations we would benefit from becoming a member.

4.6  **Update – Banner Over Main Street**  

4.7  **Community Grants**  
No discussion at this time.

4.8  **Police Task Force**  
Change request on their I.T. system has been put forward to address some outdated language. Questions were asked about whether transgender people could be prosecuted for using a washroom based on complaints from others. The Chief indicated that individual police officers have discretion. Promotional postcards or business cards were suggested for Task Force members to hand out to people to provide awareness of the Task Force. Some form of positive-space training will be done through their block training program in addition to distribution of “tip sheets” through their intranet (which is not expected to be very effective). New hate crimes investigator, Mike Goche attended the HPSC’s first half of the training. The Task Force’s web page will be reviewed.
Looked at the Two-spirit Wise Practices Guide that was put out in Toronto and was shared with the new hate crimes investigator. There was a suggestion that we become acquainted with our local “beat officers”. Victims Services doesn’t have LGBT people but they are looking into one, and despite this, they highly recommend the service and officers refer to it often. The next meeting is in May. The Chief wants community members to attend the strategic planning session on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at Mohawk College.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Homelessness Initiative
Jane will check in to see if the advisory committee would be permitted to find a candidate from within the community because the volunteers on the committee are, unfortunately, not able to contribute more hours, although this issue is extremely important to us.

6. INFORMATION SHARING

6.1 Lyla Miklos: meeting with Rotary business owners in April, and can communicate information about The Well and other committees, events and news.

6.2 Deirdre Dixon: The Well is doing a summer youth project called Arts travaganza, including workshops with local artists.

7. ADJOURNMENT