PRESENT: Simon Lebrun, Jae Adams, Lyla Miklos, Debbie Woolridge, Councillor Bratina

REGRETS: Christina Tedesco (Leave of Absence), Deirdre Dixon, Deirdre Pike

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Lee – City of Hamilton

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
   None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   (B. Bratina/D. Woolridge)
   That the April 16, 2009 minutes of the GLBT Advisory Committee be approved as circulated.  
   CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

   4.1 Strategic Plan
   Discussion.

   1. Mission

   The committee agreed that the name of the committee should be changed to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for The City of Hamilton, and to add the footnote on LGBTQ as the Hamilton Positive Space Collaborate does.
Two options of a revised mission were established, and members are to send their comments in about which option they prefer within the next two weeks.

The two options are as follows:
Option 1:
The City of Hamilton LGBTQ Advisory Committee exists to make recommendations to Council and staff in order that the City of Hamilton may excel in its services, programs and approaches to individuals in the LGBTQ community. The Committee gives voice to the perspectives of the LGBTQ population, advocates for improvements, and evaluates the City of Hamilton on its accountabilities in order to eliminate barriers experienced by LGBTQ individuals.

Option 2:
The LGBTQ Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton exists to eliminate barriers experienced by the LGBTQ community by giving voice to the perspectives of LGBTQ individuals. The committee does this by making recommendations and advocating for improvements to council and staff in order that the city of Hamilton will excel in providing services to the LGBTQ community.

Current: Draft:
The City of Hamilton GLBT Advisory Committee exists to raise awareness about the GLBT community, to identify issues and to make recommendations to Council and staff in order that the City of Hamilton may excel in its services and approaches to individuals in the GLBT community. The Committee sets a standard for the elimination of barriers experienced by individuals in the community by giving voice to the perspectives of the GLBT population, advocating for improvements, and evaluating the City of Hamilton on its accountabilities.

2. Vision

A consensus on the vision was established as follows:

To be the city of choice for LGBTQ citizens to live, learn, work and play in an open, safe and inclusive community.

3. Name of the Committee

The committee agreed to change the name, as noted above.

4. Terms of Reference

Each clause of the terms of reference was reviewed and modified, with the final draft as follows:

1. To provide advice and recommendations to City Council and staff with respect to the implementation of policies, procedures and guidelines that address the needs and concerns of LGBTQ community members.

2. To provide a venue where the LGBTQ community can express their concerns, share information and recommend improvements to city services.
3. To educate and increase the City's awareness on issues which affect members of the LGBTQ community.

4. To regularly review the progress and measure the success of the committee and its activities.

5. To facilitate access to accurate information about the LGBTQ community, including an up-to-date list of LGBTQ-positive spaces, resources and organizations.

6. To ensure the members of the committee represents the diversity of the LGBTQ community with respect to gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ethno cultural background, socio economic status.

Committee members will review the old and new versions for discussion at the June strategy meeting. Discussion followed regarding the June meeting date. It was decided that Wednesday June 17th was the better date. Staff will contact Karen Smith regarding her availability.

4.2 Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative
Members noted that they had met with Spectator Editorial Board and addressed the following: concern about “outing”, and the need for coverage of the community. This led to the profile of Jen in the paper.

Members met with Ken Roberts re Pride display in the library. Mr. Roberts noted that it was the libraries policy to be equitable. The members asked that the library take materials and exposure to more libraries. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled in June.

The Well’s training program has been implemented with the Hamilton Board of Education staff and their building was launched as a positive space. There is to be a positive space in every high school. There was a suggestion for positive space training for the City.

4.3 Police Task Force
Members noted that there has not been a meeting since March 11, 2009. Simon and Debbie will get in touch with Sandra regarding more meetings.

4.4 Homelessness Initiative
Debbie noted her work with the City peer review team evaluating applications for the Homelessness Initiatives. She noted that the process was very good and informative and that 29 agencies have applied.

4.5 The Well
It was noted that the Well launched a hate crimes reporting website, hatecrimes.ca with SISO and HCCI. The RADAR youth group has grown so that it is overflowing their space.
4.6 Rainbow Youth Drop-in Program Cancellation
The Rainbow Youth Drop-In Group related to health & wellness appears to have been cancelled. HIFY was cancelled. Committee members questioned if the funding had been cut. They questioned if Public Health could provide funding, who was previously providing funding. Members noted that they are now seeing youth at the RADAR youth group with significant mental health issues, and a real need for specific supports.

It was also noted that the YWCA has started a recreation program specific for trans folks.

4.6 Hamilton Pride
Debbie noted that she had attended the orientation for volunteers. There is another scheduled for early June. It was noted that there are lots of events during PRIDE week, including those sponsored by Hamilton Pride as well as others. Citizen of the year and other awards nominations are due May 29

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Members expressed their thanks to Councillor Bratina and staff for the volunteer thank you dinner.

6. INFORMATION SHARING

Lyla noted that she spoke at the Dundas Rotary Club recently, and her message was well received. A gentleman affiliated with Dundas Anglican Church Queer Positive Space spoke with her after the meeting. The information about the group will be passed on to The Well.

7. ADJOURNMENT