MINUTES: GLBT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 8, 2006 – 5:00 PM
Room 250, City Hall

PRESENT: Cole Gately, Deirdre Pike, Joe Whelan, Dawn Lepard, Francine Small

REGRETS: Mike Desjardins (leave of absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Lee – City of Hamilton

1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were a few corrections to the meeting, including the change of the day of the Men’s support group, and the timing of the anti-oppression training with the City’s Mental Health Outreach Team.

Jane noted that the recruitment for new members for the committee will end on Friday, and the Corporate Administration Committee will be asked to make appointments.

(Whelan/Gately)
That the minutes of January 11, 2006 be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 Outlive Homophobia Campaign

A discussion took place about the Outlive Homophobia Campaign and whether or not to participate. The Committee agreed to acquire posters and to advertise their availability through the Community Fax, and set an upset budget for the purchase of posters and Community Fax service costs.

(Pike/Lepard)
That posters for the Outlive Homophobia Campaign be purchased and advertised on the Community Fax service for an upset limit of $250.00.
CARRIED.
3.2 Representatives for Hamilton Police Services’ GLBT Task Force

Joe Whelan will attend the next meeting of the Task Force to ascertain the committee’s interest in being represented.

3.3 Rainbow Safety Net Project

Bridget Marsdin of the Rainbow Safety Net Project presented a new initiative being launched in the near future by the Sexual Health Awareness Centre, and Planned Parenthood. The focus of the project is to increase access for GLBT2IQQ youth to social services, by providing community allies who are trained to assist youth in disclosing and reporting sexual orientation hate crimes. A minimum of 15 participants and 5 youth mentors will receive the one day training program in March. Bridget asked for the committee’s assistance in finding adults and youth to participate. She also asked for any interested members to act on an advisory committee for the project.

The committee agreed to assist whenever Bridget wanted to attend, and to assist in sharing the information with members of the GLBT community. Bridget will provide the details electronically to Deirdre who will distribute it to the members of the Committee.

3.4 2006 Work Plan

The members were distributed a revised draft. It was agreed that members would review it, make changes as necessary and come prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Refreshments

The committee agreed to provide juice and fruit or cookies, but no coffee, at future meetings.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

5.1 PRIDE pages

Joe recently received an e-mail from Peter about the publication of the PRIDE pages, hopefully being produced in April or May. He will copy the e-mail to the committee members. It was agreed that the committee would assist with distributing the information and Pride pages as widely as possible.
5.2 Rainbow in Rural Communities Workshop

Deirdre has offered to be a speaker at this workshop in Renfrew, on community consultation with the queer community.

5.3 Board of Education Equity Action Team

Dawn noted that the Youthnet agencies will be printed in the student handbooks at the public school board.

5.4 MSM Support Group update

Joe updated members about the MS support group at the AIDS Network. It is in its 3rd week, and they are having speakers about gay bashing, crystal meth, same sex abuse, and spirituality, among other topics.

5.5 Lesbian Support Group Update

Deirdre noted the lack of participation at the Lesbian Support group at the Hamilton Women’s Centre. The next meeting is the 22nd of February. They are hoping to do a better job of getting the word out.

5.6 LGBTQ Community Wellness Centre

Deirdre updated members on the status of the Wellness Centre and noted that they are looking at forming the Board, and that memberships are being considered.

5.7 Next meeting – March 8th – International Women’s Day

6. FOLLOW UP

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.