MINUTES:  GLBT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 12, 2006 – 5:00 PM
Room 250, City Hall

PRESENT: Suzanne Foreman, Kaz Klonowski, Dawn Lepard, Deirdre Pike, Francine Small, Joe Whelan

ALSO PRESENT: Bridget Marsden – Outreach Worker
Jane Lee – City of Hamilton

REGRETS: Cole Gately, Mike Desjardins (leave of absence)

1. DECLARATION OF “CONFLICT OF INTEREST”
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 8, 2006
(Klonowski/Small)
That the minutes for the GLBT Advisory Committee for March 8, 2006 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 Outlive Homophobia Campaign
Posters have been distributed to Kiwanis Teen Zone, Human Rights Equality Services, Wesley Transitional Youth Centre, Sexual Assault Centre, SALAP Centre, Parkview School, Planned Parenthood, GLBT Centre – McMaster University, Mental Health Rights Coalition, Housing Help Centre and Elizabeth Fry Society.

Deirdre is to forward text and contact information for distribution on Community Information Fax Service.

3.2 National Day to End Homophobia
200 posters (8.5 x 11) and 500 pamphlets are to be ordered and committee members informed when they arrive. A Press conference is to be held on Wednesday May 17th from 10 to 11 a.m. Staff will check the availability of the Council Chambers and advise Joe. Advertisements will be put on Cable 14 and on the CH Community Calendar. Deirdre is to prepare a draft invitation and press release, and circulate to the members prior to sending it out. Deirdre is to contact a professor at McMaster to speak. Coffee and nibbles are to be ordered.
3.3 Update – Pride Pages
Joe will contact PearTree Graphics and provide an update after April 21st. The Committee is interested in working with Hamilton PRIDE on this, if required, in future years.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 TEACH Program update
Bridget presented an update on the April 25th TEACH Program, with 20 social service agencies, and 5 peer mentors to participate. It is a Promote Safe Spaces Campaign within centres. A discussion took place about the questions to be asked for evaluation of safe spaces. Discussion took place about the hours of availability, a hot line, availability on weekends and when youth are available. Each Safe Space is to have a designated staff person, provided with education. Questions to be covered at the program include: How have you integrated training into service provision? Have you involved youth/service users in making decisions about safe spaces? Do service providers seek to educate all users? They are hoping to measure in a number of different ways including: increase in number of queer youth accessing service, increase in number of youth disclosing, intervention policies/procedures for homophobia, is homophobia named, are there visual cues, are the youth celebrated and valued; this is not about tolerance. Bridget noted that the training is half full at this point in time.

4.2 Hamilton Police Services
Hamilton Police Services invited members of GLBTQ Community to a meeting, and they are seeking 2 members for GLBT Task Force consisting of police officers and Board members plus the Police Chief.

A letter written by Cole & Deirdre was approved by the committee; the letter is to be printed on letterhead and sent. Joe is attending Task Force meetings on the committee’s behalf.

4.3 PRIDE
This year is the 10th anniversary of PRIDE. GLBT Committee will participate in the rally and by carrying the banner in the parade. Consideration was given to having a vendors table, and to being a sponsor again this year. Joe will bring forward the sponsorship package at the next meeting.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

6. FOLLOW-UP

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.