
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 20th, 2025
3:00-4:00P.M.
Virtual via MS Teams

Members Present:

- Corey Dutcher, Chair
- Councillor Mary Ann Grimaldi
- Cortney Peters
- Kara McCartney
- Tara Stephens
- Benjamin Dalzell, Legislative Services Clerk II

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:04 P.M.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 None prepared and/or none to review. Will be presented at the April 16th Committee Meeting.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Chair Update:

1. Meeting with Mayor – Councillor Mary Ann Grimaldi will be discussing the motion and statement for presentation. The timeline is being presented to Council. No definite update during this meeting.
2. Meeting with Erin Carl (Supervisor of Festival & Events), Frazer Mowat (Recreation Coordinator), and Aaron Berger (Coordinator, Concerts on the Canal) – Are to looking to meet with Corey Dutcher, Chair of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee, to discuss “Drag it to the canal”, and request a night for this to occur. Staff listed above will review and respond back to members of the Committee. Staff members listed above will provide dates of other events that the Committee can participate in.

3. Meeting with Enzo/Pride Niagara – Are thankful for the statement and seeing how the Committee will work with the Niagara Region to get funding. They are looking forward to working on some events in Welland. The Committee is looking to host additional meetings with Pride Niagara to assist with solidifying future plans, etc.
4. Meeting with Cassie/Niagara Region – This meeting was scheduled to occur the week of March 24-28 (specifically on March 27). Corey forwarded meeting invites to individuals.
5. Update on Letters from Food Festival & Welland Rose Festival – Advised when applications are opening for food festival. The Committee will revisit this matter in either June or July. Rose Festival wants a list of items that the Committee wants to do at their events. Corey Dutcher, Chair of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee is requesting two ideas from each member of events that the Committee can have at the festival. Corey is looking to present feedback to the President / Creative Director in about one week's time.
- 4.2 Event at the Welland Community Centre (Suggestions) – Erin was suggesting and then proceed from there. Options to consider something for Pride and then options for later months in the year.
- 4.3 Set Meetings for Erin, Enzo, Cassie to meet with Committee – Once a list has been prepared for Erin, the Committee will forward invites. The Committee will determine events and consider next steps and options.
- 4.4 Solidarity Endorsement Update (Kara) – Letter with the Mayor would cover this request.
- 4.5 Tara Update:
 1. Community Applications for Grants: Budget processes.
 2. Update on Budget – Unity Awards Table

Moved by Kara

“The LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee at its meeting held on March 20, 2025, passed a motion requesting that the City of Welland pay for a table at the Niagara Unity Awards (approximately \$400) from the 2025 Advisory Committee Activity Account.”

CARRIED

3. Tara will investigate prices for shirts and cost for a table cover and then the Committee will proceed with bringing a motion forward regarding the Advisory Committee Activity Account to pay for the items. Communications has forwarded URL's to Tara for T-shirts and other clothing. Once costs are narrowed and/or specified, Tara will present to the Committee, and then go to Council for final approval.

5. NEW BUSINESS / ITEMS

- 5.1 Float at the Rose Festival/Parade – discussion was limited. Tara to connect with Erin to ask about this.
- 5.2 Seaway – June event? What does the Committee do? Costs? What value the event would bring to the mall. To discuss at a future meeting.
- 5.3 Welland Library – Future programming? Courtney to contact the Library once ideas are prepared.
- 5.4 “Every Child Matters” Walk: this is set for September 30th, 2025. Corey has requested that Lee from the WDBIA join the Committee in the coming weeks so that the Committee can participate and offer support where needed.

6. ADJOURNMENT at 3:45pm, approximately.