

MINUTES
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER COMMITTEE
(Sub-committee of Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee)
Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
February 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Colin Plant

Members: Cynthia Reid, Lawrence Cooper, Marcy Cook, Matthew Heinz, Ryan Clayton, Sharon Doty, Stacey Piercey, James Gardner

Staff: Donna Dupas, Legislative Manager; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk.

Absent: Harvey Howse, Aaron Devor, Eko Goldberg

MINUTES

MOVED by R. Clayton and seconded by S. Doty, “That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held January 27, 2016 be adopted.”

CARRIED

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair and Committee reviewed the amended draft Terms of Reference for the LGBTQ Sub-Committee.

MOTION: Moved by C. Reid and seconded by J. Gardner: “That the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Sub-Committee (LGBTQ) requests that the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council adopt the Terms of Reference for the LGBTQ Sub-Committee as amended at the February 10, 2016 meeting.”

CARRIED

TIMELINE FOR TOPICS

The Chair facilitated a discussion on the timeline of future topics for upcoming agendas and the following was noted:

- Discussion around adding more diversity to the LGBTQ Committee concluded that Committee members would invite members of the community who may be interested in participating to attend Committee meetings as guests.
- The Police Department is supportive of sending a representative of the Police Department in civilian attire to present and listen at an upcoming LGBTQ Committee meeting.
- The suggestion for inviting the Police attend the March 3, 2016 meeting. Topics Committee members would like to have presented include; the role that the Police force

has in keeping members of the LGBTQ community safe, statistics on crimes against LGBTQ citizens and accuracy in reporting crimes against LGBTQ citizens.

- Trans Visibility Day is March 31, 2016 and is a day of celebration.
- The LGBTQ Committee would like to promote awareness of Trans Visibility Day and suggestions included approaching local media for Public Service Announcements and UVIC radio.
- It may be possible to obtain funding to produce a 2 minute video promoting Trans Visibility Day and the video that could be sponsored by the LGBTQ Committee.
- Saanich could issue a proclamation regarding Trans Visibility day and send out a media news release.

MOTION: Moved by M. Cook and seconded by M. Heinz: “That the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Sub-Committee will draft a Proclamation declaring March 31, 2016 as Trans Day of Visibility; and requests that the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Mayor Atwell consider having March 31, 2016 declared as Trans Day of Visibility.”

CARRIED

- Tourism could be considered for the April Agenda as a lead up Pride Week.
- Market Saanich to the LGBTQ Community as a safe and welcoming place.
- An invitation to Tourism Victoria to attend the March 3, 2016 LGBTQ Committee meeting could be extended.
- Flying the Pride and Trans Flags during Pride week was discussed.

MOTION: Moved by M. Cook and seconded by S. Piercey: “That the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Sub-Committee requests that the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider having the Pride and Trans Flags flown at the Saanich Municipal Hall during Pride week, July 1-10, 2016.”

CARRIED

- The Committee discussed the dates of the 2016 days of commemoration including:
 - February 16, 2016 is Pink Shirt Day in BC. February 24, 2016 is Pink Shirt Day in Canada.
 - March 31, 2016 is Trans Day of Visibility
 - Anti-homophobia Day is May 4, 2016
 - May 17, 2016 is International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
 - The week of November 20, 2016 is Trans Day of Remembrance
 - December 1, 2016 is International AIDS Day

PERSONAL SAFETY IN SAANICH BUILDINGS

The Chair facilitated a discussion on safety for members of the LGBTQ community in Saanich buildings and the following was noted:

- A minimum standard for raising awareness would be to prominently place a rainbow decal/symbol to indicate the building is safe and welcoming.
- Non-gendered washrooms are considered by most to be the safest option for members of the LGBTQ community.

MOTION: Moved by R. Clayton and seconded by C. Reid: “That the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Sub-Committee requests that the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider having staff install signage at Saanich buildings indicating that Saanich buildings are welcoming and safe for members of the LGBTQ community.”

CARRIED

- Staff education is critical for welcoming of LGBTQ citizens at Saanich facilities.
- Staff training could consist of an electronic document that staff members read and acknowledge. This is a very cost effective method of providing staff training.

MOTION: Moved by M. Cook and seconded by S. Piercey: “That the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Sub-Committee requests that the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider having all Saanich staff who interact with the public receive sensitivity training.”

CARRIED

- A needs assessment for Saanich LGBTQ citizens should be conducted to help identify and highlight the needs of the local LGBTQ community.
- Currently it is difficult to find gender neutral programming for persons ages 25 -55 years and older.
- Gendering by Saanich Staff during greeting citizens at Saanich buildings should be addressed.
- An All Body Swim will be organized for a Saanich Recreation Centre. A social component will be included with the All Body Swim.

MOTION: Moved by M. Cook and seconded by S. Piercey: “That the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Sub-Committee requests that the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider having staff organize an All Body Swim at a Saanich Recreation Facility.”

CARRIED

- Saanich should be showing more diversity in its advertisements.
- Non cis families should be included in Saanich marketing and advertising material.

MOTION: **Moved by M. Cook and seconded by R. Clayton: “That the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Sub-Committee requests that the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider marketing and advertising materials produced by Saanich to be more reflective of the diversity of Saanich citizens and utilize gender neutral language.”**

CARRIED

- The LGBTQ Committee could consider developing an information brochure on the mandate of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2016.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary