

MINUTES
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER COMMITTEE
(Sub-committee of Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee)
Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
March 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Colin Plant

Members: Cynthia Reid, Lawrence Cooper, Harvey Howse, Aaron Devor, Marcy Cook, Matthew Heinz, Sharon Doty, Stacey Piercey, James Gardner

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

Absent: Cynthia Reid, Ryan Clayton, Eko Goldberg

Guests: Scott Treble, Saanich Police; Niki Hodgkinson, Saanich Police

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Heinz and seconded by S. Doty, "That the minutes of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Committee meeting held February 10, 2016 be adopted."

CARRIED

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

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

- All seven recommendations sent to HSAC were endorsed.
- Invitation extended to members of the LGBTQ community who are underrepresented.
- Mr. Randall Garrison, MP, has introduced a private members bill to protect LGBTQ Rights. Mr. Garrison could be invited to speak to the Committee at a future LGBTQ meeting.
- When motions from HSAC go forward to Council members of the LGBTQ Committee can attend the Council meeting and speak to the motion.

PROCLAMATION

LGBTQ Committee members M. Cook and R. Clayton drafted a Proclamation declaring March 31, 2016 International Trans Day of Visibility in Saanich. The Proclamation has been sent forward to Mayor Atwell for endorsement.

POLICE

Scott Treble, Community Engagement Division, Saanich Police and Niki Hodgkinson, Community Engagement Division, Saanich Police, gave an overview of the community engagement work that the Saanich Police Department is undertaking. The following was noted:

- S. Treble is the co-chair of Greater Victoria Police Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC).

- Membership of DAC is comprised of police officers from the four municipalities, the two RCMP detachments and community representatives from the Greater Victoria area.
- Members of DAC are committed to developing and maintaining relationships and acting as a direct link between diverse communities and police agencies.
- The mandate of DAC is;
 - To act as a consultative and advisory body to police agencies in the Greater Victoria area; and
 - To assist police officers better understand the diverse culture, value systems, unique perspectives and conditions and religious beliefs of the minority groups they serve.
- Misconception even among police about what constitutes a hate crime.
- The underreporting of hate crimes is a serious concern for the police.
- Saanich Police have “open ears” and a policy of “no call is too small”.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- There currently is no specific LGBTQ support or diversity unity within the Saanich Police Department.
- It would be helpful if there was an email address of a “point person” on the Saanich Police website for a contact for LGBTQ support.
- An online diversity course is a start but not enough to properly train a person in sensitivity training. Face to face interaction is required for better understanding so that questions can be asked and answered.
- The Vancouver Police Board have issued an LGBTQ specific sensitivity training video.
- An education program for the LGBTQ community particularly LGBTQ youth of what to expect when reaching out to the police for help, should be considered.
- An invitation to school liaison officers to engage in LGBTQ outreach could be extended.
- A website should be developed for DAC along with a Twitter and Facebook presence.
- If a member of the community is concerned about threats they have received, the threats should be reported to the police department. The person’s information could be flagged in the police computer so responding officers are aware of the potential for erroneous reporting.

The Committee thanked the speakers.

BUSINESS ARISING

- The Senior Manager of Recreation distributed complimentary Saanich Recreation passes to Committee members.
- The April LGBTQ Committee meeting will be held at the Gordon Head recreation Centre.
- Building Codes are provincially regulated. The number of washrooms in a public building are determined by occupancy load.
- A working group of LGBTQ members to undertake a needs assessment has been formed. The working group will report to the Committee at the monthly meetings.
- Congratulations to Committee member and UVIC faculty member, A. Devor for becoming the world’s first Chair of Transgender studies.
- The installation of a rainbow sidewalk in the Municipality of Saanich should be explored.
- LGBTQ elder abuse could be a future Committee discussion topic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary