

Meeting Minutes
Borough of State College
LGBTQ Advisory Committee
January 17, 2019

The LGBTQ Advisory Committee met on Thursday, January 17, 2019, in the State College Borough Municipal Building, 234 S. Allen Street, State College, PA. Mr. King called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Members Present

Greg Brauser, Jessica Diplan, Borja Gutierrez, Michele Hamilton, Mark Hayes; Monica Himes, Stacy Jarvis, Lane LaBelle, Susan Marshall; Karen Elizabeth Moroski, Brian Patchcoski, and Barbara Welshofer

Members Absent

Kirstein Burkhart

Others Present

Kevin Kassab, Community Engagement Manager; Thomas R. King, Assistant Borough Manager for Public Safety; and Judy Altieri, Office Manager

Introductions

Mr. King welcomed the new committee members. Mr. Kassab noted the committee was making great strides and thanked everyone for their service.

Election of Officers

Mr. Kassab called for nominations for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary positions.

- Ms. Moroski nominated herself for Chairman.
- Mr. Gutierrez nominated himself for Vice-Chairman.
- Ms. Diplan nominated herself for Secretary.

Ms. Hamilton motioned to approve all the nominees for the respective office positions; Lieutenant Brauser seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Public Hour

There was no one that spoke during the public hour.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Ms. Welshofer motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting. Mr. Gutierrez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

LGBTQ Mission, Charge & Membership

Mr. King stated the committee's mission, charge and membership document was included for review by the new members. He noted members were always welcome to submit suggestions for work projects throughout the year to be sure the committee was addressing relevant issues for the community.

Approved 2019 Work Plan

Mr. Kassab noted Borough Council had approved their work plan at a recent meeting. A copy of the approved work plan was distributed. Mr. King added the work plan activities were just that, an approved plan for the year, but there could be other items or work goals that came up throughout the year that could also be addressed.

Approved Resolution 1223

Mr. King noted the approved resolution was another informational item, which was also recently approved by Borough Council. He added initially, the LGBTQ Advisory Committee was created as a pilot. He noted the resolution now permanently established the LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

2019 Pride Month(s)

Mr. Kassab indicated the committee had previously determined they would provide support and plan events for both the April (PSU Campus) and June (National) Pride Months.

Mr. Gutierrez stated AIDS Resource (AR) approved the funding for the street banners. Mr. Kassab suggested the Borough place the order for the street banners (to be sure to get the correct specifications needed for the streetlight poles) and then submit for reimbursement through AR. Mr. King suggested a letter acknowledging the funding support be sent to the Borough. Mr. Kassab indicated a larger order (90 banners) recently cost the Borough \$4,200. He indicated that number may be somewhat excessive. Mr. King stated staff would get the particulars together for the street banner order and run the details of the order by Ms. Burkhart prior to ordering.

The committee agreed the standard "rainbow" design would be used on the banners.

Mr. Patchcoski indicated the committee had previously discussed a ceremonial kick-off event with a flag raising at the municipal building. He also suggested another awareness event in November for transgender awareness.

Ms. Marshall wondered if any banners could be displayed inside the municipal building's lobby. Mr. Gutierrez suggested one flag be displayed for each of the LGBTQ communities. Mr. Kassab indicated that was a doable request.

Mr. Patchcoski suggested a proclamation be issued by Borough Council shortly after the flag raising. Mr. Kassab asked the committee to take the lead on the proclamation wording and submit it to him for review by Administration. Mr. King suggested the proclamation and flag raising be scheduled for the first meeting in April, which was April 1. Mr. Gutierrez stated it would be nice to have a large presence by the community at that meeting. Mr. Patchcoski suggested with help from Officer Himes and Ms. Diplan, they could get some campus folks involved. He also noted the proclamation should address all the LGBTQ communities. Ms. Jarvis indicated the campus student organizations should be invited, along with the Centre LGBTQ Support Network youth group.

Mr. King suggested the committee flush out the details for the ceremony and proclamation and get back to Mr. Kassab with their suggestions. He also noted the Borough would assist with some social media promotion. Ms. Moroski indicated she would take the lead on the structure for the ceremony. Mr. Kassab indicated Borough staff would take the lead on notifying Borough residents about the ceremony through the neighborhood associations.

Mr. Gutierrez stated he and Ms. Burkhart had discussed the option of placing the AR logo on the banners. They shared some concern the general public may associate the Pride Month celebration with AIDs. He said he would discuss the option with Ms. Burkhart again before making a final decision.

2019 Quarterly Meetings

Mr. King confirmed the previously approved meeting schedule with the new committee members.

Mr. Kassab noted there had been some discussion about showcasing a drag show in the Sidney Friedman Park sometime in April. He asked if the committee would be interested in working on that event. Mr. Patchcoski noted another group had reached out to him and planned to have a similar activity in one of the local bars.

Mr. King noted the event in the park would not support alcohol. Mr. Kassab indicated the Borough may not be able to sponsor an event on private property, i.e., a local bar or restaurant.

Other Business Matters

2019 Conflict of Interest Statement

Mr. King explained the 2019 Conflict of Interest Statement (which was a Housing and Urban Development requirement) was distributed to every ABC. He noted the relevance came into play during financial discussions and other issues which might require a vote.

Mr. Patchcoski indicated he was now sitting on the Governor's LGBTQ Commission. He noted the meetings were typically held in the larger cities, but he was doing his best to convince the commission to schedule one of their monthly meetings in the State College area. He added the committee's work on the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index, along with the Centre LGBTQ Support Network, may help him to convince the commission to come to the area.

Mr. Kassab suggested reaching out to Mayor Hahn for a letter of support.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Moroski adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Altieri
Office Manager