



LGBTQ2+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 23, 2017

A meeting of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 23, 2017, at 5:35 pm, in Committee Room #1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Brendan Bailey, Co-Chair
Jen Donovan, Co-Chair
Kirsten Anderson
Carolyn Camman
Brooklyn Fowler
Rob Higgins*
Andy Holmes
Jutta Kolhi
Rob McDowell
Yogi Omar
Linnea Strom*
Chase Willier
Catherine Wong*

ABSENT: David C. Jones (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Czene, Recreation Coordinator, Access & Volunteer Services, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Jen Donovan, Co-Chair, acknowledged that we are on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Yogi Omar
SECONDED by Rob McDowell

THAT the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for David C. Jones for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Rob Higgins, Linnea Strom and Catherine Wong absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Jutta Kolhi
SECONDED by Carolyn Camman

THAT the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of September 7, 2017, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Rob Higgins, Linnea Strom and Catherine Wong absent for the vote)

1. 2018 Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed meeting dates for 2018.

MOVED by Jen Donovan
SECONDED by Carolyn Camman

THAT the Committee approve the following meeting dates for 2018:

Meetings take place on Thursday of each month (except for August) at 5:30 pm.

Date	Meeting Type	Meeting Room
January 11	Working Session	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
February 8	Regular Meeting	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
March 8	Regular Meeting	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
April 12	Working Session	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
May 10	Regular Meeting	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
June 14	Working Session	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
July 19	Regular Meeting	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
August - no meeting		
September 27	Regular Meeting	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)
October 18	Working Session	Business Centre Meeting Room (2 nd Floor, City Hall)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Linnea Strom and Catherine Wong absent for the vote)

2. Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee

Chase Willier welcomed Winona Stevens and Steven Eastman from the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee (UAPAC) to the meeting. Ms. Stevens and Mr. Eastman provided some background on projects the UAPAC has been working on and expressed interest in working with the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee in the future and responded to questions.

3. Motion - Truth and Reconciliation Sub-Committee

The Committee reviewed and discussed the motion put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Sub-Committee.

MOVED by Catherine Wong
SECONDED by Kirsten Anderson

WHEREAS

1. The LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee (the "Committee") has indicated in the 2017-2018 workplan, an objective of establishing a working relationship with the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee ("UAPAC"), one of a closer collaboration and communication. Both committees have indicated objectives of an intersectional nature.
2. The Committee has extended an invitation to the UAPAC's co-chairs and/or other committee member to present at the November 23rd, 2017, Committee meeting to provide an update and overview on UAPAC's work this current term.
3. The Committee wishes to respectfully request the opportunity to "brainstorm" with UAPAC to develop ideas to further the City of Vancouver's (the "City") reconciliation work and which UAPAC and the Committee could jointly recommend for action to Vancouver City Council (the "Council").
4. The Committee has established a Truth and Reconciliation Sub-Committee (the "Sub-Committee") as we share representation specific to the queer, Indigenous and Two-Spirit communities.
5. The Committee has learned that the City is considering expanding the scope of its two social planning positions for sex workers to include Indigenous women (including those that identify as LGBTQ2+) and safety (the "Social Planning Expansion").

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Committee wishes to collaborate with UAPAC in the early part of the calendar year in 2018 in order to meet their shared objectives.
- B. The Committee requests that Council provide City resources and support for UAPAC representatives and the Committee or the Truth and Reconciliation Sub-Committee to hold a joint brainstorming meeting.
- C. The Committee recommends that Council support and fund the Social Planning Expansion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Motion - "Conversion Therapy" Sub-Committee

Brooklyn Fowler presented the motion put forward by the "Conversion Therapy" Sub-Committee and responded to questions.

MOVED by Brooklyn Fowler

SECONDED by Yogi Omar

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver (the "City") is committed to being a safe and welcoming community for LGBTQ2+ individuals, as demonstrated by the adoption and ongoing implementation by the City and the Park Board of a Trans, Gender Variant, and Two Spirit Inclusion Policy and the Vancouver School Board Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities Policy.
2. The practice of so-called "Conversion Therapy" (also referred to as "Reparative Therapy") - by which pseudoscientific practices are used with intentions of converting an individual's sexuality or gender identity into alignment with the heterosexual and cisgender majority - can cause profound and lasting trauma to survivors¹. As written in the Pan American Health Organization (a branch of the World Health Organization), it is "critical to prevent the application of theories and models that view homosexuality as a 'deviation' or a choice that can be modified through 'will power' or supposed 'therapeutic support'" (Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization, 2012).
3. These practices have been rejected as baseless and damaging by the Canadian Psychological Association, the Canadian Association of Social Workers, the World Health Organization, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Counselling Association.
4. In its policy statement opposing "Conversion Therapy" practices, the Canadian Psychological Association states: "Scientific research does not support the efficacy of conversion or reparative therapy (Haldeman, 1994; Spitzer, 2012; see Anton, 2010). Conversion or reparative therapy can result in negative outcomes such as distress, anxiety, depression, negative self-image, a feeling of personal failure, difficulty sustaining relationships, and sexual dysfunction (e.g., Haldeman, 2001; Shidlo & Schroeder, 2002; Beckstead & Morrow, 2004; Glassgold et al., 2009)."
5. "Conversion Therapy" is an umbrella term meant to include a spectrum of practices not always referred to as "Conversion Therapy". These practises can range from religious rites, behavioural modification or medication, to electroshock therapy or lobotomy. While its practise may take a variety of

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association. (2015, October). Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth." Retrieved from: <https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA15-4928/SMA15-4928.pdf>.

forms, the psychological damage, deliberately imposed self-loathing, and other impacts have lasting effects on survivors.

6. The Province of Ontario, in 2015, adopted the *Affirming Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Act* to protect minors from being subjected to "Conversion Therapy" and to prohibit practitioners from billing "Conversion Therapy" through public health insurance. Furthermore, the province of Manitoba in 2015 has passed a health regulation banning "Conversion Therapy". Nine American states, and twenty-seven American municipalities, counties, and communities including Seattle, Miami, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati have banned the practice.
7. The City of Vancouver currently has License By-law No. 4450 that regulates how entities operate in order to "protect public health and safety" and furthermore to "protect vulnerable populations" such as youth, as well as sexual and gender minorities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee recommends that Council puts forward amendments to the City By-laws including License By-law No. 4450 to prohibit the provision of "conversion therapy" services and those services that purport to alter an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity by entities licensed by the City of Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Materials Referenced

Anton, B.S. (2010). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association for the legislative year 2009: Minutes of the annual meeting of the Council of Representatives and minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors. *American Psychologist*, 65, 385-475.

Beckstead, A.L. & Morrow, S.L. (2004). Mormon clients' experiences of conversion therapy: The need for a new treatment approach. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 32, 651-690.

Glassgold, J., Beckstead, L., Drescher, J., Greene, B., Miller, R.L., & Worthington, R. (2009). Insufficient evidences that sexual orientation change efforts work says APA. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2009/08/therapeutic.aspx>

Haldeman, D.C. (1994). The practice and ethics of sexual orientation conversion therapy. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 62(2), 221-227.

Haldeman, D.C. (2001). Counseling gay and bisexual men. In G. Brooks and G. Good (Eds.), *A New Handbook for Counseling Men* (pp. 796-815). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization. (2012). "Cures For An Illness That Does Not Exist: Purported Therapies Aimed at Changing Sexual Orientation Lack Medical Justification and Are Ethically Unacceptable." Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/yac7ojm9>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association. (2015). "Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth. Retrieved from: <https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA15-4928/SMA15-4928.pdf>

Shidlo, A., & Schroeder, M. (2002). Changing sexual orientation: A consumers' report. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 33(2), 249-259.

Spitzer, R.L. (2012). Spitzer reassess his 2003 study of reparative therapy of homosexuality. *Archive of Sexual Behavior*, 41(4), 757-775.

5. Motion - Housing Sub-Committee

Jen Donovan presented the motion put forward by the Housing Sub-Committee and responded to questions.

MOVED by Carolyn Camman

SECONDED by Linnea Strom

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver (the "City") is committed to being a safe and welcoming community for LGBTQ2+ individuals. In 2016, Vancouver implemented a five pillar Trans, Gender Variant, Two Spirit (TGV2S) Inclusion Policy that identified a need and made subsequent recommendations for actions to address the increased risk and barriers associated TGV2S populations accessing housing services in Vancouver [TGV2S Inclusion Policy recommendation 2A].
2. As part of the City's Housing Reset there are current housing initiatives being implemented by the City, such as the roll-out of temporary modular homes, that parallel the TGV2S Inclusion Policy recommendations of:
 - leveraging City land [TGV2S Inclusion Policy recommendation 2Ai];
 - performing community consultation [TGV2S Inclusion Policy recommendation 5B]; and
 - establishing community/stakeholder partnerships towards implementation [TGV2S Inclusion Policy recommendation 3Ai, 4Cii, and 5Ci].
3. The TGV2S Inclusion Policy recommendations have not been implemented into the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2012-2021 (CoV 2011).
4. The TGV2S Inclusion Policy applies to all existing and future programs and services including but not limited to the City's Housing initiatives [TGV2S Inclusion Policy recommendation 2B].

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Committee recommends that Council directs City staff to include an addendum to the City's Housing Reset Policy and to include policies for

trans people in market housing, City shelters, and other municipally-controlled housing.

- B. The Committee recommends that Council directs City staff to prioritize the implementation of the TGV2S Inclusion Policy in the mandates of existing and future housing initiatives.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Staff Liaison Updates

Paul Czene, staff liaison, provided a brief update and responded to questions.

Applications are now open for the February to October 2018 term of the Trans, Gender Diverse, and Two-Spirit Inclusion Advisory Committee. Applications are due by 5 pm on December 31, 2017. More information including an application form can be found online: <http://vancouver.ca/your-government/trans-and-gender-variant-inclusion-steering-committee.aspx>

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VARY THE AGENDA

MOVED by Brendan Bailey
SECONDED by Brooklyn Fowler

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda to deal with New Business next.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Note: For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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8. New Business

Rob McDowell informed the Committee of a motion being put forward by Councillor Ball regarding "Equitable Parental Leave at the City of Vancouver" at the Regular Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017.

Catherine Wong suggested making 2018 the year of the Queer as there are many significant anniversaries taking place in 2018 (e.g.: Vancouver Pride Society, Vancouver Queer Film Festival, Pride in Art and Queer Arts Festival). Paul Czene, Staff Liaison, will follow up with protocol to see next steps to proceed.

7. Co-Chair Updates

The Co-Chairs provided a brief update noting there have been numerous enquiries received in recent months from the public regarding joining the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee or Sub-Committee(s) of the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee.

Adjournment

MOVED by Brendan Bailey
SECONDED by Linnea Strom

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Working Meetings:

DATE: Thursday, December 7, 2017 and
Thursday, January 11, 2018
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room
2nd Floor, Vancouver City Hall

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, February 8, 2018
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room
2nd Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:43 pm.

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