

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough
LGBTQ Advisory Committee
January 16, 2018

Mr. Gutierrez called the LGBTQ Advisory Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, in the State College Borough Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street.

Members Present

Greg Brauser
Kirsten Burkhardt
Borja Gutierrez
Monica Himes
Susan Marshall, Secretary
Michele Hamilton
Brian Patchcoski
Alexis Scott

Absent

Jared DeLoof
Karen Elizabeth Moroski, Chair
Michael Straw, Vice Chair

Other Attendees

Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Kevin Kassab, Community Engagement Manager; and Judy Altieri, Office Manager

Mr. Fountaine suggested the committee members elect a new Vice-Chairman for 2018.

Mr. Gutierrez indicated he would be willing to serve as the Committee's Vice Chair. Ms. Himes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Public Hour

No public comments were made at this meeting.

Approve Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2017

Mr. Gutierrez motioned to approve the meeting minutes as submitted; Ms. Himes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Conversion Ordinance Review

The Committee reviewed the administrative changes recently made to the Conversion Ordinance.

Mr. Fountaine indicated after review by the Borough's Solicitor, the recommendation was to keep the reporting mechanism out of the ordinance, as that process could be developed after the ordinance was adopted by Borough Council. He noted the Health Department would be involved to address initial complaints. If the evidence was compelling, the Borough would then turn the matter over to the Courts for the penalty phase.

Mr. Gutierrez asked if the Committee would be able to review the reporting process once established. He also asked how a minor might report and if they would be required to reveal themselves during a court issued penalty phase.

Mr. Fountaine and Lieutenant Brauser both indicated the court would manage the details of the penalty phase and it was likely a minor would not be able to keep themselves from total confidentiality, indicating the Borough and court system try to protect minors.

Ms. Marshall noted issues may also be reported through the school counselor and when that happens, they refer the issue to the Children & Youth Services Bureau.

Mr. Gutierrez motioned to approve the ordinance; Ms. Himes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fontaine indicated the ordinance would be presented to Borough Council for approval in February. He noted staff could forward the agenda date to the committee members once the agenda was set.

2017 Human Rights Campaign Scorecard

Mr. Gutierrez stated with the committee's help, the Borough hoped to improve their scorecard for the next campaign.

Mr. Fontaine indicated he had hoped the process for the 2018 Human Rights Campaign (HRC) would have started prior to the meeting, but will have staff forward the information to the committee once received.

Mr. Gutierrez noted he had sent information to Mr. Fontaine regarding using a consultant to help raise the Borough's score. He wondered if the Borough would support this expense.

Mr. Fontaine indicated if the costs were reasonable, the Borough would pay the expenses. He asked Mr. Gutierrez to look into the details and determine the costs that would be incurred.

Mr. Fontaine stated the Committee would work on the survey scorecard and the results would be presented to Council.

Ms. Burkhart motioned to have the committee reach out to Equity Pennsylvania for help with the 2018 HRC scorecard; Ms. Hamilton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2018 Conflict of Interest Policy Memorandum

Mr. Fontaine explained staff was required to distribute the information annually to all Borough appointed committee members since the Borough participated in federally funded housing programs. He noted questions should be directed to Mr. LeClear, Director of the Borough's Planning Department.

2018 Quarterly Meetings

The Committee previously determined they would meet on the third Tuesday of every third month at noon. The quarterly meeting schedule for 2018 was proposed as follows:

April 17, July 17 and October 16

Mr. Gutierrez motioned to approve the meeting schedule; Ms. Himes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Ms. Scott indicated she would soon be graduating. Mr. Gutierrez confirmed there were soon to be a couple of vacancies. Mr. Fontaine suggested the committee spread the word about the vacancies and encourage applications. He noted Borough Council would formally make the appointments.

Other Business Matters

The committee briefly discussed the upcoming Pride Month (April) and agreed it was too late to get involved this year. Mr. Kassab will put the topic on the next agenda to start planning for next year.

Mr. Fontaine suggested the committee forward information to the Mayor's Office so that the Mayor could issue a proclamation for Pride Month.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to discuss, Vice Chair Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Altieri
Office Manager