

**Meeting Minutes  
State College Borough  
LGBTQ Advisory Committee  
January 16, 2020**

The LGBTQ Advisory Committee met on Thursday, October 17, 2019, in the State College Borough Municipal Building, 243 S. Allen Street. Kevin Kassab, State College Borough (SCB) Community Engagement Manager, called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

**Members Present**

Greg Brauser, Lane LaBelle, Kirsten Burkhart (phone), Susan Marshall, Brian Patchcoski, Celest Good, Fred Purnell, Borja Gutiérrez, Barbara Welshofer, Alina Wong, Mark Hayes, Michele Hamilton, and Monica Himes.

**Members Absent**

Karen-Elizabeth Moroski

**Others Present**

Kevin Kassab, Community Engagement Manager; and Esther Matthews, Administrative Assistant.

**Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary**

Ms. Welshofer motioned to nominate Mr. Gutiérrez as Chair, seconded by Mr. Purnell, and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Gutiérrez nominated Mr. Patchcoski for Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Purnell, and all were in favor. Ms. Marshall volunteered to continue as Secretary and was seconded by Ms. Welshofer. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**Approval of Minutes**

After reviewing the October 17, 2019 minutes, Mr. Patchcoski motioned to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens**

None

## 2020 LGBTQ Pride Month

### Pride Parade and other Pride Events

- Ms. Marshall briefly went over the Pride Parade and Festival events:
  - There would be a weekend of activities June 12 -14<sup>th</sup>, which would be the same weekend as the Central PA Theater and Dance Festival.
  - They would be coordinating with Elaine and the Central PA Theater and Dance Festival so both events offer a variety of things that would complement each other.
  - Friday night they would have a Grab and Go.
  - Saturday would include tables and booths in the Sydney Friedman Parklet with activities such as face-painting and crafts.
  - A short Pride Parade is planned for midday Saturday: it would start at Sydney Friedman Parklet, go south down Fraser Street, then east across West Fairmount Avenue, north down Allen Street, across West Foster Avenue and finish back at the parklet.
  - A drag show is planned for Saturday afternoon.
  - A downtown food and beverage restaurant tour is planned for Saturday evening, with the goal being to encourage the 20- to 40-year-old participants to have a good time and support local businesses.
  - Sunday morning would be a follow up brunch, serving as a time to reflect on the weekend events and regroup.
  - They will be working with Mr. Kassab & Elaine to figure out what subcommittees they'll need to create to help with the logistics of pride events.
  
- The Gazette was working on an article to announce and promote the events.
- On June 1<sup>st</sup>, a local band was slated to perform as a kickoff to Pride Month.
- With the approval of Summers on Allen, they would be coordinating with that group in order to utilize the closure on Allen Street for pride events.
- Ms. Welshofer asked who would be in the parade and Ms. Marshall said it has not been decided, but the small committee is going to be working on it along with a group from Altoona, who had a similar event.
- Chairman Gutiérrez suggested reaching out to student organizations to see if any of them would be willing to come back for pride events.
- Mr. Purnell said he could reach out to some of the organizations he was involved in to see how they can help and since a lot of students come back during the summer for Arts Fest & other events already in place, they might be able to generate some traction off of those.
- Mr. Kassab suggested reaching out to State College High School's band to get them involved.

- Youth sports camps draw in people during the summer as well and was worth looking into since youth are identifying as LGBTQ+ at a much earlier age nowadays, but Mr. Patchcoski said they would have to check with the university to see how they would navigate involving minors in pride events.
- Ms. Good noted the PSU summer sports camps already have packed schedules, not allowing the campers much free time to attend other events.
- Mr. Kassab asked Mr. Brauser if they could get a color guard and Mr. Brauser replied it would depend on availability.
- Ms. Hamilton mentioned local Big Brother & Big Sister organizations could be another way to gain more youth involvement and community support.
- Mr. Patchcoski stressed getting a save the date advertisement out as soon as possible, but also getting something out to encourage local businesses and residents to participate, giving them tangible things they can do to help promote Pride events such as 3-4 bullet points saying how they could our events, offer some kind of special that supports LGBTQ+ and/or have their own event showing support.

## **Pride Banners**

### Additional Banners

- Ten new, more inclusive banners would be purchased to add to last years.
- The total cost would be \$650, but Mr. Kassab is going to try to negotiate a better price as well as check what twenty banners would cost.
- West Penn sent over a W-9 form for donation, which Ms. Burkhart completed and sent back to them. She was just waiting for them to respond and Mr. Kassab said he would follow up with them.
- PSU's President Baron is moving forward with their banners, which would help increase LGBTQ+ visibility and awareness on campus.
- Chairman Gutiérrez proposed the LGBTQ+ board getting together to come up with funds for banners, suggesting the next agenda include a discussion for more funding from Aids Resource (AR) and Ms. Burkhart said she had advertising funds set aside that could be allocated to banners so she did not think they need to put it on the agenda.
- Mr. Kassab noted he has been making sure the banners are taken care of, washed and stored properly to get the most use out of them.

### Placement

- Borough administration is in favor of placing banners in crosswalks, but there are restrictions set in place by the US Department of Transportation, which regulates crosswalks.

- It is solely the Borough manager's decision for the placement of banners, with preference to crosswalks, and making sure it adheres to state requirements.

## **Other Business Matters**

### 2020 Conflict of Interest Memorandum

The 2020 Conflict of Interest Statement, along with an email from Ed LeClear explaining the purpose of the statement, were attached for the members to review.

### Census 2020

- Mr. Kassab mentioned the 2020 Census would begin April 1<sup>st</sup> and that letters would be sent out in the coming weeks to determine how people want to report or respond: either by phone, online or via mail.
- Mr. Kassab noted students should be reporting to where they attend college/university since they reside there for the majority of the year, not their hometown where they are from or where their parents may live.

Mr. Patchcoski requested to add meeting dates to the meeting minutes for new members and as a friendly reminder for returning members.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

April 16, 2020

August 27, 2020

October 15, 2020

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Gutiérrez adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Matthews, Administrative Assistant