

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Borough of State College**  
**LGBTQ Advisory Committee**  
**April 17, 2018**

The State College Borough's LGBTQ Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, in the Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Chairman Moroski called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

**Members Present**

Greg Brauser  
Borja Gutierrez, Vice Chairman  
Monica Himes  
Karen Elizabeth Moroski, Chairman  
Brian Patchcoski  
Alexis Scott

**Absent**

Kirsten Burkhart  
Michele Hamilton  
Susan Marshall, Secretary

**Other Attendees**

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

**Public Hour**

There was no one that spoke during the public hour.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Patchcoski motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2018. Ms. Himes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**2018 Human Rights Campaign**

Mr. Kassab stated the committee's next task was to finish gathering the information and support letters for the 2018 Human Rights Campaign. He highlighted several Borough ordinances, resolutions and policies that had been put into place.

He indicated he was working with Dan Murphy, a member of the LGBTQ community and an elected Borough Council representative, who had agreed to write a campaign support letter for the committee's work within the Borough. He also indicated a letter was coming from the Women's Resource Center. He suggested the Committee review the items in the scorecard to help determine what other items should be gathered. Lastly, he reminded the committee that the scorecard was for the municipality (not the University) and the deadline for submission was early July.

The committee discussed each of the categories and agreed to collect additional support items as follows:

### Municipality as Employer

- Mr. Gutierrez noted the University had a vendor equity policy in place and perhaps the Borough could adopt that practice. He noted he gave that information to the Borough Manager several months ago. Mr. Kassab indicated he would investigate the matter.

### Municipal Services

- The Borough will secure a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the AIDS Resource Alliance. Mr. Kassab suggested the Borough may be able to provide a donation towards the Alliance project.
- Mr. Kassab noted a support letter was coming from the Hearts for the Homeless program.
- The Borough will investigate updating the MOU for the Centre Region Council of Governments Senior Center.
- Mr. Patchcoski indicated he would canvas some of the local churches for support letters.

### Law Enforcement

- Check marks were already in place for municipal government and police department appointed positions to the committee. Mr. Kassab asked both Ms. Himes and Mr. Brauser to secure letters from their respective employers indicating they were liaisons on the committee.
- Ms. Himes noted the University's website included a link for their Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics. She indicated she could print the 2016 report for submission.

### Leadership on LGBTQ Equality

- Mr. Gutierrez indicated he would seek a letter of support from the University.
- Mr. King suggested the committee provide language for a Borough Council resolution taking a public position on LGBTQ equality. Mr. Gutierrez noted he would contact the organization for sample language.

Mr. Gutierrez noted the Borough was another municipality encouraging the state to put non-discrimination laws in place to support and protect the LGBTQ community.

The Committee agreed that they were on the right track to improve the Borough's scorecard for 2018.

Mr. Kassab asked committee members to forward the information to him for submission with the scorecard.

## **Other Business Matters**

Mr. Kassab indicated the Borough was in the process of purchasing signage, which would include pictures and brail, for several gender-neutral restrooms within Borough facilities. He noted staff would be educated before they were put into place.

The committee discussed several options for the pictures. Mr. Kassab indicated he would have to check on the status of the order.

Mr. Patchcoski noted New York State was staying away from pictures and just noting “restroom” for their gender-neutral restrooms. He also noted the change at Borough facilities may influence the community to adopt as well.

Mr. Patchcoski then stated he had recently received the State College Borough Survey. He noted that sexual orientation was not asked. Mr. King indicated that the Borough had some municipal specific questions they could add and perhaps the Borough could include that question with the next survey. He suggested the committee send a letter to the National Citizens Survey organization requesting the change for the next round of national demographic surveys.

Mr. King continued stating that most residents received the survey and it was important to complete. He noted there was an option to complete it online as well.

Ms. Himes noted the University, along with the Borough and several other State College municipalities, had recently purchased a new shared record management system. She noted she would like to have sex/gender (male, female and transgender) data fields included in the records.

The Committee briefly discussed “intersex” as a possible definition.

Mr. Patchcoski stated that more and more places were removing those types of markers.

Ms. Scott noted the inclusion of intersex might help to make additional resources available to parents in the future. She also suggested the local hospital does provide some services and support.

Mr. Gutierrez indicated Pride month was coming and the committee should get something in motion for that. Mr. Kassab suggested the committee generate a letter to Mayor Hahn asking for recognition and a proclamation in June for Pride Week. Mr. King suggested the letter should come from the LGBTQ Committee’s chair or vice chair, and the Borough had staff resources to help write the proclamation, but the letter should provide a sample.

**Next Meeting(s)**

July 17 and October 16, 2018 at 12 p.m.

**Adjournment**

As there was no further business to discuss, Chairman Moroski adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Altieri  
Office Manager