MINUTES  
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 18, 2022  

Present: Commissioners Anthony Mangiafico, Christine Rebstock, Dan Barry, Sandy Aldieri, Laura Timmons, Dolly Haddad, Cayes Jarda, Beth Shapiro, and Christine Santacroce. Staff: Assistant General Counsel Christopher Forte  

Members of the Public: Chief Erik Costa, Haley Stafford, Ayanna Wright, Jill Echevarria, and Jennifer Billingsley.  

1. Call to Order by Chair. Chairperson Mangiafico called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.  

2. Approval of the Minutes for the December 21, 2021 Regular Meeting of the LGBTQIA+ Commission.  

MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 19, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Jarda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:37 p.m.  

3. Public Session on Agenda Items. Chief Costa introduced himself to the Commission members and stated that he, and the Middletown Police Department, is looking forward to being involved with the Commission and with Middletown Pride.  

   
   A. Nominations for Grand Marshal (AGC Forte). AGC Forte informed the Commission that nominations for Grand Marshal for Pride 2022 were open, and that all nominations from the Commission are due no later than January 31, 2022.  

   B. Safety for LGBTQIA+ Community in Middletown (Commissioner Timmons). No update.  

5. Old Business.  

   A. Update on Commission Initiatives.  

      1. Q+ Partnership Update (AGC Forte). AGC Forte reported that all documentation has been signed with Q+ and that they are working towards a start date of March 2022.  

      2. Middletown Pride Ice Skating Event (Commissioner Timmons). Commissioner Timmons stated that there was some light participation in January, and would like the event extended through February. AGC Forte stated he would confirm with the recreation department and would add the
event to the City’s Community Calendar for February.

3. **Spring Event (Russell Library).** Ayanna Wright informed the Commission that Russell Library is looking to have an Earth Day themed event on or around April 23. The library is also looking to incorporate the Day of Silence and Lesbian Visibility Day into the event, since those dates are very close to the proposed event date. Will include drag artist story hour, and events for older children and families.

4. **Fall 2022 Pokémon-themed Movie Night (Russell Library).** Ayanna Wright stated that the Library is looking to hold a Pokémon themed movie night in October 2022. No updates.

**B. Planning for Middletown Pride 2022.**

1. **LGBTQIA+ Artist Takeover of City Hall (AGC Forte).** AGC Forte updated the Commission that Middletown Pride may be working with the New Haven Pride Center on this event. Commissioner Timmons stated that she knows of artist from Provincetown that may want to be involved.

2. **Pride Flag Raising and Kiek-Off on June 1 (AGC Forte).** No update.

3. **Middletown Pride Charity Event on June 3 (Mia).** AGC Forte updated the Commission on his conversations with Mia regarding having a charity event on June 3 at Jerry’s Pizza in the evening. AGC Forte asked the Commissioners to think of charities that they would like the event to raise money for.

4. **Middletown PrideFEST on June 4 (AGC Forte and Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce).** AGC Forte and Haley Stafford from the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce updated the Commission on the current planning for PrideFEST. Commissioners Jarda and Aldieri stated that they should have a strategy session to coordinate photography for the event.

5. **Middletown Pride Band Night on June 9 (AGC Forte).** No update.

6. **Middletown Pride Move Night on June 23 (AGC Forte).** AGC Forte stated that he will be reaching out to OutFilmCT for a potential partnership for the movie night for this year.

7. **Wesleyan Movie Event (AGC Forte).** No update.

8. **Drag Artist Story Hours update (Russell Library).** Ayanna Wright informed the Commission that the library is working on dates for hold the drag artist story hours, thinking of one on June 1 and then one or two more throughout the month. Will know more as we get closer to June.
9. **Downtown Main Street Cleanup with Cinder & Salt (Russell Library).** Ayanna Wright informed the Commission that Middletown Pride will be partnering with Cinder & Salt again for a downtown cleanup on June 11.

10. **Events with Q+ (Russell Library).** Ayanna Wright informed the Commission that the Library will be working on three youth programs with Q+ for 10-12 year olds and 13-19 year olds during pride month: (1) Silent Disco, (2) Open Mic night, and (3) craft night.

11. **Silent Disco (Russell Library).** See item 10.

12. **Event to Honor Activists during Middletown Pride (Commissioner Rebstock and Middlesex County Historical Society).** AGC Forte informed the Commission that he will be meeting with Jesse Nasta from the Middlesex County Historical Society to discuss this event this month. Will report back next month.

13. **Transgender and Intersex Panel (Russell Library and Commissioner Timmons).** No update. Commissioner Timmons and Ayanna Wright will get in touch to start planning the event.

14. **Self-Defense Classes for the community (Commissioners Santacroce and Barry).** Commissioner Santacroce stated that there are two kung fu schools that are interested in either holding an LGBTQIA+ themed class, or demonstrations. Will work on dates and the scope of the offering and will report back.

15. **Open Mic Night at Perk (AGC Forte).** No update. Will report back next month.

Commissioner Jarda then stated that some restaurants have been reaching out to them to get involved, will find out more and report back next month.

Commissioner Rebstock is interested in creating a Pride-themed bowling league. Will find out more information and will try to create this for some time in March.

6. **Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Haddad seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously at 6:35 p.m.