

**MINUTES
LGBTQIA+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 20, 2021**

Present: Chair Beth Shapiro; Committee Members Dan Barry, Sandy Aldieri, Laura Timmons, Phil Pessina, and Sal Uccello. Staff: Assistant General Counsel Christopher Forte

Public: Alison Williams, Haley Stafford, Jeffrey Pugliese, and Jennifer Billingsley.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Staff at 5:41 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Committee Member Aldieri made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 20, 2020 Regular Meeting. Committee Member Barry seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved at 5:42 p.m.

3. Public Session on Agenda Items. None.

4. New Business. None.

5. Old Business.

- A. Creation of LGBTQIA+ Commission.** Assistant General Counsel Forte updated the Committee on the unanimous approval of the ordinance for the creation of the LGBTQIA Commission at the General Counsel Commission on January 14, 2021. The ordinance was amended to require Commission members to be electors of the City of Middletown, and the number of Commission was expanded from 12 to 13 to allow for two Common Council members to sit on the Commission. AGC Forte informed the Committee that the ordinance will appear before the Common Council on February 1, 2021 at 7 p.m. and encouraged Committee Members and their friends and family to appear at the meeting and advocate for its passage.
- B. Planning for Pride 2021.** AGC Forte recapped the Committee's discussion from the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting with regards to Pride 2021, specifically that last month the Committee spoke in favor of having a joint in-person and virtual Pride celebration, including a virtual car parade, whereby the parade would take place on Main Street and people would be encouraged to watch virtually.

Committee Member Pessina stated that an event such as that would still draw large crowds, like with what occurred for the virtual car parade for Holiday on Main. Committee Member Pessina also stated he would like to see a way Pride can help local businesses, and would like Middletown's GSA's involved with Pride to educate the public from their perspective on why pride is important in our

RECEIVED
21 JAN 20 AM 10:13
TOWN CLERK
MIDDLETOWN, CONN.

community.

Committee Member Timmons stated that there are members of the LGBTQIA community in Middletown who are eager to attend in-person events to be a part of the local community, as the isolation as a result of the pandemic has been tough on the community. Committee Member Timmons suggested holding an in-person event, outside and in a large area, where the number of attendee's could be controlled and socially distant.

Committee Members Aldieri, Uccello, Pessina and Shapiro expressed their concerns with holding any in-person event during the pandemic. Committee Member Aldieri expressed her opinion that she would like Pride 2021 to move forward virtually.

Committee Member Barry shared an idea he came up with for Pride 2021 to have Committee Members record a TedTalk-like recording on an area of expertise of theirs that is either an educational talk about the LGBTQIA community, or something they are passionate about.

Committee Member Timmons informed the Committee that on December 26, 2020, a Latinx transgender woman, Alexandria Winchester (age 24), was murdered in the Bronx. Committee Member Timmons stated that they would like to educate the public and start a discussion about the tough issues facing the LGBTQIA community, in particular, the transgender community.

- I. **Update from Staff.** No additional updates.
- II. **Update from the Russell Library.** No additional updates.
- III. **Update from Wesleyan University.** No additional updates.
- IV. **Update from the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.** No additional updates.
- V. **Update from the Sponsorship Subcommittee.** Committee Member Shapiro stated that the Sponsorship Subcommittee was planning on scheduling a meeting with local businesses to develop new virtual sponsorship levels in the next two weeks.
- VI. **Update from the Entertainment Subcommittee.** No additional updates.
- VII. **Update from the Digital and Virtual Outreach Subcommittee.** No additional updates.
- VIII. **Update from the Middletown High School Gay Straight Alliance.** Not present. No additional updates.

B. Ice Skating Rink Event. For the past few months the Committee, upon recommendation of Committee Member Timmons, was working to create an LGBTQIA Ice Skating Rink Event. However, given the state of the COVID-19 pandemic it was agreed to table this idea until the pandemic has resolved in order to keep the community safe. No further action required.

6. Adjournment.

MOTION: Committee Member Timmons made a motion to adjourn. Committee Member Pessina seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.