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TOWN CLERK  
MIDDLETOWN, CONN.

**MINUTES**  
**LGBTQIA+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY, 2021**

Present: Committee Members Christine Santacroce, Dolly Haddad (departed at 6:51 p.m.), Dan Barry, Sandy Aldieri, Laura Timmons, Phil Pessina, Sal Uccello and Cayes Jarda (arrived at 6:05 p.m.) Staff: Assistant General Counsel Christopher Forte

Public: Haley Stafford, Jeffrey Pugliese, Grae LaRose and Jennifer Billingsley.

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Staff at 5:37 p.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes for the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting.**

**MOTION:** Committee Member Pessina made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting. Committee Member Haddad seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved at 5:38 p.m. Committee Member Jarda was not present for the vote.

**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 that this was the last meeting of the LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee, and starting next month, the first meeting of the LGBTQIA Commission will be held. AGC Forte informed the Committee on the housekeeping matters that will be on the agenda for next month's meeting, including a training on the Freedom of Information Act and Ethics, as well as the need to elect a chair. AGC Forte asked the Committee Members to advise whether they wanted to focus on pride when the new Commission starts.

**B. Planning for Pride 2021.** AGC Forte recapped the Committee's decision to have a virtual Pride celebration, and AGC Forte and Jennifer Billingsley walked through the programming planned for pride month. AGC Forte informed the committee that nominations for a grand marshal for Pride 2021 will be due by the end of February, so that the Commission can vote during the next meeting to select a grand marshal.

Grae LaRose detailed the efforts of him and the Entertainment Subcommittee on creating a pride show for June 5. A discussion was held regarding logistics and potential ideas for a show.

Finally, AGC Forte informed the Committee that there will be an announcement for Pride on March 1, 2021.

- 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.** The Chamber has been working with Committee Member Timmons to make Middletown Pride more visible in the community. To further that goal, Pride will be opening a pop-up Pride Shop in Main Street Market, with limited hours where Pride merchandise can be sold and information regarding the LGBTQIA community can be distributed and made available to the community at-large.
- V. **Update from the Sponsorship Subcommittee.** Committee Member Santacroce updated the Committee on the subcommittee's efforts to obtain statewide and national sponsorships. The subcommittee will also be meeting with the Chamber to evaluate the sponsorship tiers for Pride 2021.
- VI. **Update from the Entertainment Subcommittee.** See above. The subcommittee also reviewed the proposed announcement schedule for Pride.
- 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. It was discussed holding an event for Q+ on February 26 from 4-6 pm. The event will be capped at 15 people per COVID-19 guidelines.

## **6. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Committee Member Uccello made a motion to adjourn. Committee Member Santacroce seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.