MINUTES
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 15, 2022

Present: Commissioners Anthony Mangiafico, Jennifer Billingsley, Christine Rebstock, Dan Barry, Sandy Aldieri, Laura Timmons, Dolly Haddad, Beth Shapiro, Phil Pessina (arrived 5:34 pm, left 5:53 pm), and Steven Kovach. Staff: Assistant General Counsel Christopher Forte

Members of the Public: Captain John Lozefski, Haley Stafford, Robert Crowley, Jill Echevarria, and Mars Zschack.

1. Call to Order by Chair. Chairperson Mangiafico called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting of the LGBTQIA+ Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 15, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Shapiro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:33 p.m. Commissioner Pessina was absent for the vote.

3. Public Session on Agenda Items. None.


   A. June 1 Flag Raising (Commissioner Rebstock). Commissioner Rebstock asked the commission to include the flag raising at Middlesex Health to the June 1 event, and have City officials and the Commission members present. AGC Forte stated that Middlesex Health is one of, and has been, one of the biggest supporters of Middletown Pride since its inception. The Middlesex Health flag raising would occur prior to the event that will start at the Pride crosswalk on Main Street.

   MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to recommend that Middletown Pride take part in the Middlesex Health flag raising on June 1. Commissioner Aldieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:50 p.m. Commissioner Pessina abstained from the vote.

   B. Selection of DJ for Middletown PrideFEST 2022. AGC Forte stated that a Request for Proposals seeking a vendor to provide a qualified DJ, sound tech, and sound system for PrideFEST was issued by Middletown Pride on February 1 and was open through March 11, 2022. Middletown Pride received three applications, but only one received on behalf of DJ Lady Tita and Celebration Event Productions was complete and responsive to the request. AGC Forte informed the Commission that this was the vendor used in 2019 for the first Middletown Pride, and that this vendor provides DJ and sound services for Pride in the Park in Norwalk.
MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to recommend that Middletown Pride select DJ Lady Tita and Celebration Event Productions to provide DJ and sound services for Middletown PrideFEST 2022. Commissioner Shapiro seconded the request. The motion passed unanimously at 5:40 p.m. Commissioner Pessina abstained from the vote.

C. Selection of Emcees for Middletown PrideFEST 2022. Applications for Emcee opened on January 10 and closed on February 28. Middletown Pride received four applications. AGC Forte stated that two emcees should be selected.

MOTION: Commissioner Billingsley made a motion to recommend that Middletown Pride select Mia and Hella Swag to be the Emcees for Middletown PrideFEST 2022. Commissioner Barry seconded the request. The motion passed unanimously at 5:49 p.m. Commissioner Kovach abstained from the vote.

D. Selection of Bands for Middletown Pride's Band Night. Applications for bands to apply for the first Middletown Pride Band Night on June 9 to run from 4 pm -- 9 pm at the Wadsworth Mansion opened on January 10 and closed on February 28. Middletown Pride received ten applications.

MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to recommend that Middletown Pride select Sister Funk, Love N’ Co, Carrie Ashton, Downtown 6, and Barbie Stigma to be the bands selected for Middletown Pride Band Night. Commissioner Haddad seconded the request. The motion passed unanimously at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Timmons abstained from the vote, and Commissioner Pessina was absent for the vote.


MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to recommend that Middletown Pride select the following performers to perform during the June 3 Charity Event, and the June 4 Showcase Concert (in no particular order):

Kenya Mone Heart
Mia
Hella Swagg
Connecticut Gay Men’s Chorus
Tat Wong Kung Fu Academy
Giganta Smalls
PaXx headroom
Rory Roux Lay
Midnight
Chai
Mz. October May Lay
Xiomarie LaBeija
Angelina “The Latin Doll”
Angel Rivers
Miss Chevious
Sapphire Peru
Sun
Andrea Paquin
Crystal Starz
Iridessa Soul
Frizzie Borden
Tarra Tohma
Tiana Maxim
Natalia Fierce
Ethel De Luxe
Zella Cullatore
Antonio Mercado
Astra S’Lay
Amethyst
Melanin Martinez
Ivanna
Chica Parma Sean
Indica Fontaine
The Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut
Sativa Sarandon
Jocelyn LaFlare
Mz. Clementine KuLayd

Commissioner Haddad seconded the request. The motion passed unanimously at 6:59 p.m. Commissioner Pessina was absent for the vote.

5. **Old Business.** There were no updates on any items of Old Business.

A. **Safety for LGBTQIA+ Community in Middletown (Commissioner Timmons)**

B. **Update on Commission Initiatives.**

1. **Q+ Partnership Update (AGC Forte).**

2. **Middletown Pride Ice Skating Event (Commissioner Timmons).**

3. **Earth Day Spring Event on April 23 at Harbor Park (Russell Library).**

4. **Fall 2022 Pokémon-themed Movie Night (Russell Library).**
C. Planning for Middletown Pride 2022.

1. LGBTQIA+ Artist Takeover of City Hall (AGC Forte).

2. Pride Flag Raising and Kick-Off on June 1 (AGC Forte).

3. Middletown Pride Charity Event on June 3 (Mia).

4. Middletown PrideFEST on June 4 (AGC Forte and Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce).

5. Middletown Pride Band Night on June 9 (AGC Forte).


7. Wesleyan Movie Night on June 24 (AGC Forte).

8. Open Mic Night at Perk (AGC Forte).

9. Downtown Main Street Cleanup with Cinder & Salt (Russell Library).

10. Events with Q+ (Russell Library).

   1. Silent Disco (June 12)
   2. Open Mic Night
   3. Craft Night (June 22)

11. Event to Honor Activists during Middletown Pride on June 30 (Commissioner Rebstock and Middlesex County Historical Society).

12. Transgender and Intersex Panel (Russell Library and Commissioner Timmons).

13. Self-Defense Classes for the community (Commissioners Santacroce and Barry).

6. Adjournment.

MOTION: Commissioner Kovach made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rebstock seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously at 6:59 p.m. Commissioner Pessina was absent for the vote.