



LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 06/29/2023

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Aurora Public Library Room S332 – 101 S River Street, Aurora, IL 60506

- Call to order
 - Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Adam Pauley, Chairperson.
- Roll call
 - Zachary Bishop, Brittney Borowicz Keller, Sean Li, Briana Moss, Adam Pauley, Ivan Quinones, Paulene Spika, and Michael Vargas were present. Frederick Yanos was absent. Mike Nelson, the Board's staff liaison, was also absent.
- Others present/public comment
 - Keri Traid, an Aurora native who was the Grand Marshall of the 2023 Aurora Pride Parade, said she observed the Pride flag was no longer flying over One Aurora Plaza the day after the City's Pride Flag Raising on June 9 and wished it would have stayed up for all of Pride Month to show support for the LGBTQ+ community. Traid also said that she hopes the City would consider painting crosswalks in the Pride Flag colors during Pride Month in the future. She further offered to partner with the Board to plan a "Pride in the Park" event and help bolster support for local drag shows.
 - Anton X, HIV Prevention Lead at the LGBTQ+ Cen-ter at Ken-neth Young Center in Schaumburg, attended the meeting to learn more about the Board and its work.

- Approval of last month's meeting minutes
 - Paulene Spika made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes. Brittney Borowicz Keller seconded the motion. The entire Board was in favor.
- Treasurer's report
 - Sean Li emailed Board members a proposed budget for the \$10,000 the City is giving the Board for 2023 and asked everyone to review it.
- Aurora Pride Parade feedback
 - Almost every Board member volunteered with Aurora Pride to help run the Aurora Pride Parade on June 11.
 - Brittney Borowicz Keller, who's also a member of the Aurora Pride board, said that this year's Pride Parade had the most vendors and likely had the largest attendance in the event's history. She explained that Aurora Pride hopes to build its volunteer base in the future by holding more meetings throughout the year. She also said the Board could participate in next year's parade in ways other than volunteering and that Aurora Pride might be interested in partnering to host other events throughout the year.
 - Michael Vargas said it would be a good idea for there to be a designated spot for protestors at future Pride Parades.
 - Sean Li said that it would have been helpful to have more volunteers to work security.
- Social media
 - The Board agreed that officers Adam Pauley, Brittney Borowicz Keller, and Zachary Bishop should be the only members to have access to the Board's social media accounts. Other Board members can email these officers content for posts.
 - The Board also agreed to create an Instagram account for the Board.

- Board committee breakdown review & updates
 - Social Events Committee
 - The Board discussed ideas for future mixers. The mixer in August could be scheduled and themed around the Market Days festival in Chicago and the one in October could be scheduled and themed around National Coming Out Day. The December mixer could involve donation drives for canned food, winter coats, and/or Toys for Tots. Potential venues for mixers include Society 57 and Tavern on Broadway.
 - Ivan Quinones and Brittney Moss will reach out to businesses to obtain information about hosting potential mixers in the future, possibly one for International Drag Day on July 16.
 - Community Outreach & Education Committee
 - Brittney Borowicz Keller has been talking to a lot of studios about partnering to host a self-defense workshop. The only studio that has stayed in contact is Gracie Barra Aurora. The studio could offer a 2-hour class taught by an instructor and two Black belts for 60 people. They would charge us \$50/person for the first 30 participants and then \$45/person for any additional participants.
 - The Board agreed that those prices per person were a bit high. Brittney will try to negotiate the price, preferably to \$20-25/person. If the studio is not amenable, the Board will reach out to other studios.
 - Paulene Spika recommended that the Board reaches out to staff at the Fox Valley Park District to see if they know of any instructors who would be willing to teach a class and if the District has a space to host classes.

- Pride Month Committee
 - The Board discussed working with the City to have downtown crosswalks or sidewalks painted with the Pride Flag colors for Pride Month or year-round. Adam Pauley will talk to Timmy Forbes, Superintendent of Street Maintenance, to obtain more information. Zachary Bishop will reach out to the Aurora Public Art Commission to see if its members would be interested in partnering on the project.
- Old business
 - No old business was discussed.
- New business
 - No new business was discussed.
- Upcoming LGBTQ+ holidays
 - July 6 - Omnisexual Visibility Day
 - July 14 - International Non-Binary People's Day
 - July 16 - International Drag Day
- For the good of the board
 - Adam shared that the Kane County Board declared June 2023 LGBTQ+ Pride Month for the first time in its history on June 27, 2023.
- Next meeting
 - Thursday, July 27th | 6:00 PM | 51 E Galena Boulevard, Aurora, IL 60505
- Adjournment
 - Ivan Quinones motioned to adjourn. Sean Li seconded the motion. The entire Board was in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.