



LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 07/27/2023

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Mayor's Office of Community Affairs Office – 51 E Galena Boulevard, Aurora, IL 60505

- Call to order
 - Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Adam Pauley, Chairperson.
- Roll call
 - Zach Bishop, Brittney Borowicz Keller, Adam Pauley, Ivan Quinones, Paulene Spika, and Fred Yanos were present. Sean Li, Briana Moss, and Michael Vargas were absent.
 - Mike Nelson, the Board's staff liaison, was also in attendance.
- Others present/public comment
 - Keri Traid thanked the Board for presenting her with the Excellence in Service Award at the Brunch & Divas event on July 15. She hopes the Board will continue recognizing members of the Aurora LGBTQ+ community and donating to important LGBTQ+ causes. Traid also hopes the Board will collaborate with other local LGBTQ+ organizations.
- Approval of minutes for 6/29 and 7/13 meetings
 - Fred made a motion to approve the minutes for the 6/29 and 7/13 meetings. Paulene seconded the motion. The entire Board was in favor.
- City Liaison's report
 - Mike is working to finalize the Board's budget with the Mayor's Office and will collaborate with Sean Li, Treasurer, on financial matters for the Board. He stressed that the City does

have funds for the Board and that he is advocating for the Board to receive a \$15,000 budget from the City in 2024.

- Mike let everyone know that he added all the officers as admins on the Board's Facebook page.
- Brittney asked how Board members will be reimbursed for purchases made on behalf of the Board. Mike said to send receipts to him for reimbursement. He also mentioned that he can use his City credit card to make purchases on behalf of the Board – just send him a link to where the item can be bought, and the quantity needed.
- Board committee breakdown review & updates
 - The Board agreed that all the committees need to start meeting monthly to ensure that the Board follows through on its ideas. Zach shared who had previously volunteered for each committee:
 - Executive Committee – Adam, Brittney, Zach, and Sean (the officers)
 - Social Events Committee – Brianna, Ivan, and Fred
 - Community Outreach & Education Committee – Briana, Zach, Ivan, and Paulene
 - Pride Month Committee – Brittney and Fred
 - Adam will be an observer on the committees besides the Executive Committee.
 - Executive Committee
 - The committee will meet on August 10 (the second Thursday of the month) at 6pm. Adam will follow up with the meeting location.
 - Adam is working on getting in touch with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley to set up a scholarship fund for the Board.
 - Social Events Committee

- Nothing to report.
- Community Outreach & Education Committee
 - Fred shared that he is working on the scavenger hunt for LGBTQ+ History Month in October. He is thinking that each location in the scavenger hunt will be based on an important event in LGBTQ+ history. He will work with Zach on picking out the dates. He plans to have more information about the scavenger hunt in writing at the next meeting.
 - Paulene asked her boss at the Fox Valley Park District whether she knows an instructor who'd be willing to teach a Self Defense class and if the Board could host the class at the park district's facilities. Paulene's boss has not gotten back to her yet.
 - Fred mentioned he's hoping the Board can partner with Simply Destinee, a suicide awareness organization in Aurora, on an event. He is friends with one of the directors of the group.
 - The Board discussed other ideas for events it could host, including a book drive, a backpack drive, and a drag queen story hour.
 - Adam is going to reach out to Feed My Starving Children to see about the Board being able to organize a volunteer day there. He wants to make sure that the organization is LGBTQ+ friendly. Brittney recommended the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry as an alternative location to volunteer if it is not.
 - Brittney shared that the Aurora Human Relations Commission invited Board members to come to their next meeting to discuss ideas for collaboration. She does not have the exact date yet because it will be a special meeting.

- Pride Month Committee
 - Nothing to report.
- Old business
 - No old business was discussed.
- New business
 - Location of future meetings - Brittney motioned that the Board change its regular meeting location to the Aurora Public Library at 101 S River Street. Fred seconded the motion. The entire Board was in favor. The exact room in the library may be different every month.
 - Creating a Gmail account for the Board - Fred motioned that the Board create a Gmail account to use for email correspondence and file storage. Zach seconded the motion. The entire Board was in favor.
 - Reappointment process for Board members
 - Mike explained that when a Board member's term is up, they are in good standing, and want to stay on the Board, he will recommend reappointment to the Mayor's Office. Sean, Ivan, and Brittney's first terms end on October 1. Mike will clarify with the City on whether October 1 is correct date since the Board did not start meeting until January 2023.
 - Brittney asked what qualifies as "good standing". Mike said that it is outlined in the member guide all the Board members received shortly after they were appointed.
 - Officer terms and elections – Mike believes that the Board has to hold officer elections annually. He will ask for clarification from the City.

- Ivan asked if the Board could expand its current membership. Mike said he will ask the City about it.
- Fred recommended that the Board choose a different name for awards it gives to community members recognizing their service. He recommended naming it the SPARKLE Award. It is an acronym standing for Symbol of Pride for Aurora Recognition of Kindness and LGBTQ+ Excellence. The Board discussed the idea and agreed that it could have multiple awards it gives to community members.
- The Board discussed whether it will have a role in choosing/presenting the City of Aurora's Pride & Excellence awards that Mayor Irvin gives out during Pride Month. Mike thinks the Board can start working more closely with the Mayor's Office on the award.
- For the good of the board
 - Upcoming LGBTQ+ holidays
 - August 8 - Anniversary of Randy Shilts Birthday (1951). Shilts was a queer journalist who documented the AIDS Crisis in the 1980s and 1990s. He grew up in Aurora.
 - August 14 - Gay Uncles Day
 - August 20 - Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
 - August 23 - Anniversary of the Aurora LGBTQ Board's Creation (2022)
 - Zach passed out a list of all LGBTQ+ holidays in every month of the year so the Board can plan potential tie-in events.
 - The Board congratulated Keri Traid on her run for Miss Continental in September and wished her good luck.
- Next meeting

- Thursday, August 31 | 6:00 PM | Aurora Public Library (Room TBD), 101 S River Street,
Aurora, IL 60506

- Adjournment
 - Fred motioned to adjourn. Ivan seconded the motion. The entire Board was in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.