

May 2019 Minutes
Agenda
Call to Order at 6:40pm

Attendees:

- Peter Fortner
- Nicholas Grant
- Monica Nemuth
- Nicole Armstead Williams
- Sheila Alexander-Reid
- Consuella Lopez
- Randy Downs
- Desireé Luckey
- Brad Lewis
- Jade Foster
- David Perez
- Nii-Quartelai Quartey
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Skip review of the February minutes due to attendance

Introduction to Shawn Townsend, Director of the Office of Nightlife & Culture

- Sheila provided context
 - Mayor created a new nightlife and culture office
 - This week, they will be giving a presentation for LBGT club owners and promoters
 - This is particularly important with Pride events coming up
- Shawn spoke about his background
 - 11th year in DC Government; ABRA for 5 years, night shift
- Organizational Structure
 - Office of three people right now
 - They are working on policy, strategic plan, website, outreach--juggling many hats right now
 - They serve as an intermediary between nightlife businesses, residents, and agencies
 - Working on interagency collaboration that doesn't always exist
 - Townsend wants to get a full understanding of the issues that affect the LGBT community
 - 15-member commission comprised of part government and individuals in arts and restaurants
 - Working with Uber about sexual harassment at night—DC is the first city for the full rollout
- Update on Go-Go Events

- People are using this opportunity to express their concerns about gentrification
- Lots of tensions have been building up
- Expressed to the organizers that he doesn't want it to be an event where public safety is in jeopardy
 - This is the fourth event in two months
 - Tonight is Backyard Band (most popular event in the DC region)
- He would like to work with organizers to coordinate on logistics for events like this
- Gentrification, jobs, affordable housing, etc. are the issues that people are bringing up at these events
- Upcoming event: Tuesday, June 4th: Training day for nightlife industry
 - Looking to do this training quarterly
- Contact: shawn.townsend@dc.gov

Hate Crimes

- OHR and Office of Religious Affairs, Office of victim Services has been hosting "Listening Labs" to talk about hate crimes
 - Two locations so far: HIPS, Casa Ruby
 - The patrons at these organizations have shared what it is like to be a victim of a hate crime
 - We are using this information and are trying to make policy suggestions to the major

Update on Murder of Ashanti Carmen

- MPD is in touch with PG Police Department about what is happening in that case
- Looking for better ways to serve transgender women of color
- Pre-arrest diversion program: a step towards decriminalization of sex work
 - First meeting of the diversion program working group is Thursday, May 9 at 10am
 - Participants include CASS, Courtney's House, HIPS, Casa Ruby
- Our goal is to come up with a version of a diversion program that works for DC and recommend it to the Mayor

Office of LGBTQ Affairs Events (Past and Upcoming)

- Budget Oversight Hearings
 - Took the money for the housing specialist and listed it incorrectly as an FTE
- ALL THE PRIDES ARE COMING UP!
- 40 Under 40 Event with Mayors' Office of Women and Policy
- Parks and Recreation event for LBGTQ Teens
- Sheila is speaking at "From Selma to Stonewall" event at the Anacostia Busboys & Poets

Additional Updates

- Dane: Impact Specialist from Department of Health, studying to be a social worker
- Department of Aging and Community Living (name change)

Public Comments

1. Ron Swanda, volunteer advocate for seniors in DC
 - a. Programming now exists for LGBTQ seniors
 - b. They did a needs assessment and recommendation committee, Request for Application (RFA) to the Department of Aging and Community Living
 - c. The Department is very culturally competent
 - d. June 22nd: Event for Longtime Survivors of HIV/AIDS, 8:30am-5:30pm

Question from Randy: There has been an effort to push for senior housing and vouchers—where are we with that?

Affordable housing is the number one issue for seniors

We used to get 10 set aside for LGBTQ seniors and for returning citizens

2. Jose Gutiérrez, GLBT History Project founder, Latinx History Project, Casa Ruby, Latinx Coalition of the DC Center
 - a. Meeting with Councilmember Mendelson to advocate more staff members for the Office of LGBTQ Affairs (12+ people)
 - b. Have a bilingual Latinx staff person in the Office of LGBTQ Affairs
 - i. There are 50,000+ Latinx people in the DC Area (Wards 1, 2, 5, 6)
 - ii. Additional resources for the Latinx youth
 - iii. Reaching into the community to work with many of the existing organizations
 - c. Raise more money for the DC Center to have a full-time Latinx employee there
3. David Mariner, DC Center for the LGBT Community
 - a. Offered the opportunity to walk around the space tonight
 - b. Groups meet almost every night at the Center
 - c. LGBT organizations are coming together to say that they need more support to survive
 - d. Asking for \$3M for the Office of LGBTQ Affairs
 - i. He would ask the committee to listen to our constituency and to take a stand

Sheila encouraged advocates to focus on the top issues: housing, employment, public safety

Consuella: We need to focus on creating opportunities for LGBTQ people ages 25-59; there is nothing that helps this group

David: Latino Affairs got \$2.5M through a competitive grant process; got the money without line items, focused on priority items

Brad: What is the next step for us as a committee to pursue this money?

Sheila: We should see what happens after the community meeting on Thursday

David: The small grants are well-intentioned, but they require more staff time than they are worth

Sheila: You need at least 2-3 people to handle larger grants

Proposes that a subcommittee to work with community groups about the need for the budget for the Office

There is a 4-6 week timeline for this

Nii-Quartelai Quartey at 7:54pm: Made a motion to form a subcommittee to make recommendations

Second by Monica

All voted in favor

Motion passes at 7:55pm

Email will go out after this meeting to see who is interested in joining the subcommittee

Subcommittee

- Randy
- David
- Nii-Quartelai
- Desireé

This body can operate via email and Google Doc

Use a decision point memo; David will send this out

There will be a call after the meeting on Thursday to check-in

Monica moved to approve minutes with corrections

Seconded at 8:02pm

Vote passes, motion approved at 8:03pm

Old Business- n/a

New Business

Peter-

Community Housing Trust has a grant available with regards to housing specifically

Small organization that could benefit from \$10-\$20k

AthleteAlly: Training to coaches with LGBT team members

Free online coaches for K-12

Nicole: Share this opportunity with youth at Whitman Walker

David-

June 4th at HRC: Latinx Pride Plática

June 6th: DC Latinx Dance Party: Gritando Orgullo @ The Eagle

Monica-

Saturday: Capital Pride Alliance event at Capital Trans Pride @ The Eaton

Sunday: Free screening of "The Garden Left Behind"

Trunk/mobile house

Pick up transgender women on Friday nights after the parties; people are being picked up by the police after the parties

There is a shower and bathroom inside the truck

Truck will be available from 11pm-7am

The program doesn't have a name yet

There will be signage and they will advertise on social media

Consuella:

Tabling at Pride

Sheila: Announced Pride events

Motion to adjourn David

Second at 8:21pm