



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN
SPECIAL COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING NO. NINE

Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

Township Administration Building

318 Canborough Street, Smithville, Ontario

*****NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** **Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, the Council Chamber will not be open to the public to attend Council meetings until further notice.**

Public Comments: The public may submit comments for matters that are on the agenda to jscime@westlincoln.ca by June 15, 2020 before 4:30 pm. **Please specify if you want your comments read into the public record or if they are only to be circulated to Members of Council for their information.** The meeting will be recorded and available on the Township’s website within 48 hours of the meeting.

Pages

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

2. REQUEST TO ADDRESS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

NOTE: Requests to address items on the agenda are restricted to specific items as follows per Section 6.7 of the Procedural By-law:

6.7 Public Comment at Council:

There shall be no comments from the public permitted at Council unless:

- (a) a specific appointment has been scheduled; or,
- (b) an item is included under the “Other Business” or “Communications” or “Appointments” section of the agenda and relates to a matter which would normally be dealt with at Committee.

Chair to inquire if there are any members of the public present who wish to address a specific item on the agenda as permitted by Section 6.7 of the Procedural By-law.

3. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

- 3.1 Enzo De Divitiis, Chairperson 2020/2021 Pride Niagara Board of Directors
Re: Pride Niagara Request

Moved By Councillor Christopher Coady

That, the correspondence received from Enzo De Divitiis, Chairperson 2020/2021, Pride Niagara Board of Directors, dated June 10, 2020 requesting the Township of West Lincoln to:

1. Raise the Pride Niagara flag on Tuesday, June 1, 2021; and,
2. That, the Township share some time of virtual communication/message on their social media and provide the same for Pride Niagara to share explaining that the Township wanted to be a part of the celebration of equality with Niagara's LGBTQ+ community and that there was a miscommunication and plans are in effect for next year to which would be signed on behalf of the Township of West Lincoln Mayor and Council;

be received and

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 Councillor William Reilly 4
Re: Pride Niagara Communications & West Lincoln 2020 flag raising
FOR DISCUSSION

5. ADJOURNMENT

On Jun 10, 2020, at 5:32 PM, Pride Niagara Chair <chair@prideniagara.com> wrote to Joanne Scime, Clerk, Township of West Lincoln:

Good morning,

I hope you are staying safe, healthy, and connected during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and physical distancing. Could you please ensure that the following email is forwarded to Mayor Bylsma and all Members of Council for consideration.

This email is regarding our attempts to contact The Township of West Lincoln regarding Pride 2020 to both dbylsma@westlincoln.ca and albert.witteveen@niagararegion.ca.

Officials from the Township of West Lincoln have since reached out to Pride Niagara and apologized for the confusion. We understand that there was a miscommunication and the township did not receive the email requests and we appreciate the apology.

Considering this confusion, ongoing pandemic, and policy timeline of requests we would like to request the following.

1. Make our flag raising request for Tuesday June 1, 2021
2. We ask that the Township of West Lincoln share some time of virtual communication/ message on their social media and provide the same for Pride Niagara to share explaining that the township wanted to be a part of the celebration of equality with Niagara's LGBTQ+ community, there was a miscommunication and plans are in effect for next year. Signed on behalf of the Township of West Lincoln Mayor and Council.

Pride Niagara focuses on the acknowledgement and accountability of our community with our allies, and we want to ensure to the community that The Township of West Lincoln followed up on both.

Celebrating and acknowledging Niagara Regions diverse communities is a partnership. Pride Niagara board members consists of individuals from our LGBTQ+ community representing our community. The board of directors takes great pride in this initiative, however the responsibility to represent all our communities equally is shared by each municipality.

We sincerely would love to work together and have not only pride, but equality celebrated across Niagara. We hope our two requests are appreciated and accepted.

Enzo De Divitiis

Happy Pride!

With advance gratitude
Enzo De Divitiis
Chairperson 2020/2021
Pride Niagara Board of Directors
chair@prideniagara.com

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Pride Niagara Support

Date:2020-04-23 06:13

From:Pride Niagara Chair <chair@prideniagara.com>

To:dbylisma@westlincoln.ca, albert.witteveen@niagararegion.ca

Hello,

I am reaching out today to ask for your support in Pride Niagara's objective of securing funding through the Federal Government's LGBTQ2+ Community Capacity Fund. The Federal Government is interested in partnering with local organizations looking to expand their services in an effort to amplify the needs of LGBTQ2+ individuals within local communities.

We have identified a number of core objectives through this project, including institutionalizing our managerial processes to provide a more sustainable long-term operation for LGBTQ2+ individuals within Niagara, an environmental scan assessing the current status and strengths of other, similar organizations that either work directly or indirectly with LGBTQ2 individuals will be feasible.

Additionally, this grant will allow us to broaden our outreach to members of Niagara's LGBTQ2 community through the strengthening of our current programs (such as our one-to-one mentoring) and the creation of new outreach pathways, such as the creation of a new Pride Niagara website, increased funding for Pride in the Park, and the Unity Awards.

Please find attached to this email a template for a letter of support that we are asking you to sign on behalf of your organization, in order to identify yourselves as an ally of Pride Niagara.

We are required to submit our proposal by the end of April and are therefore asking that you return this letter of support, or one created yourself, if preferred, no later than Monday, April 27.

Thank you for your time; I hope that you are managing to stay safe, healthy and connected during this COVID-19 crisis.

Enzo De Divitiis

Chair, Pride Niagara

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Happy Pride!

With advance gratitude

Enzo De Divitiis
Chairperson 2019/2020
Pride Niagara Board of Directors
chair@prideniagara.com

2020 Niagara UNITY Awards nominations

www.surveymonkey.com/r/27K3WXS

Make Your Nominations Now

<http://twitter.com/prideniagara>

<http://www.facebook.com/pride.niagara>

<https://www.instagram.com/prideniagara/?hl=en>

Enzo De Divitiis
Chair
Pride Niagara
4 Queen Street
St. Catharines
L2R 3B0

RE: LGBTQ2+ Community Capacity Fund Letter of Support – Pride Niagara

Dear Enzo,

I am happy to offer this letter of support on behalf of [organization].

We have been able to watch Pride Niagara through your leadership grow over the past ten years from a grassroots initiative organized by a few members of the LGBTQ2 community to becoming Niagara's leading voice for LGBTQ2 issues in Niagara.

I understand the core objective of this project will be to ensure the long-term viability of Pride Niagara through a concerted effort to institutionalize our managerial and operational processes. Moreover, Pride will work to create new, and build upon existing, partnerships across Niagara. We are very hopeful that Pride Niagara will be successful in this funding application as the leadership Pride Niagara provides our community is vital.

I am confident that through this funding Pride Niagara will continue to grow its capacity to serve the LGBTQ2 community in Niagara and continue to support all of Niagara's 12 municipalities and school boards in furthering their sense of inclusion and diversity.

In closing, on behalf of [ORGANIZATION], please accept this letter of support to Pride Niagara in their application for the LGBTQ2+ community capacity fund. We know that Pride Niagara will continue to faithfully represent the LGBTQ2+ community in Niagara as they expand and grow through the support of this initiative, and we look forward to continuing to work with them.

Sincerely,

Name
Job Title
Business

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Niagara Pride Week -VIRTUAL

Date:2020-05-18 05:18

From:Pride Niagara Chair <chair@prideniagara.com>

To:

Good morning,

Hope you are staying healthy, safe and connected during these challenging times. Pride Niagara has continued to monitor the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic and we are taking direction based upon the recommendations of the public health authorities. By doing our part to ensure the health and safety of our community Pride Niagara will not be hosting this years Niagara Pride week Festival May 29- June 6th however we are taking our events and celebrations virtual!

Remembering pride is more than social events and gatherings, it is a celebration of our accomplishments and freedoms without prosecution. Pride honours our history and with every new face that joins this celebration we are reminded that we are a community, part of a historical struggle and legacy that should be celebrated.

Like every year, we are reaching out to all the municipalities in Niagara to join us for our Annual Pride Flag raising. We are asking each municipality to take a quite 30 second video raising a pride flag (which we have supplied or can) and a 30 second- 1 minute video of some of from the municipality introducing themselves , mentioned that they celebrate pride for all our LGBTQ+ community and that they are part of Team pride Niagara.

We will be pairing all the videos together with our Mr. & Miss Pride Niagara announcing each municipality and representative. Our plan is to air the video presentation Monday June 1, which is Niagara Pride week kick off, so we are asking each municipality to send their videos by May 30th

Pride Niagara would love to continue building the tradition with each municipality and sincerely hope we can work together and have you in our Rainbow Flag raising tradition.

Stay safe and connected

Enzo

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Happy Pride!

With advance gratitude

Enzo De Divitiis

Chairperson 2019/2020

Pride Niagara Board of Directors

chair@prideniagara.com

Reply Reply all Forward Delete Print Archive Mark More Previous Next

Niagara Pride Week -VIRTUAL

To DKelley@forterie.ca 16 more... on 2020-05-18 05:18
Details Plain text

Good morning,
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ensure the health and safety of our community Pride Niaga
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DKelley@forterie.ca, psusnyar@grimsby.ca, mkirkopoulos@lincoln.ca, amacinnis@lincoln.ca, ccampbell@niagarafalls.ca, kelia@niagarafalls.ca, sconidi@niagarafalls.ca, betty.disero@notl.com, mjunkin@pelham.ca, mayoradmin@portcolborne.ca, nancygiles@portcolborne.ca, lkurek@stcatharines.ca, Donna.Delvecchio@thorold.ca, ADashwood@wainfleet.ca, theresa.ettore@welland.ca, dbylsma@westlincoln.ca, albert.witteveen@niagararegion.ca

Close

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Stay safe and connected
Enzo

Happy Pride!



William Reilly

Sun 07/06/2020 10:18

To: Dave Bylsma

Cc: Witteveen, Albert <Albert.Witteveen@niagararegion.ca>; Beverly Hendry; Joanne Scime

Reply all

Good Morning Mr. Mayor and Albert,

It's been brought to my attention that Pride Niagara had tried to reach out to you both on multiple occasions with regards to having West Lincoln raise it's very own Pride flag ceremony.

Mr. Mayor can you please confirm if this is true, and if so, why was this request not forwarded/passed on to staff? Albert, I'm not quite sure why you were added to the email considering you've not really been a part of the flag raising's in the past nor do you have an actual seat at town Council but perhaps in the future could you please forward any such inquiries/emails/requests onto our staff?

Mr. Mayor, I have received multiple inquiries from residents regarding why West Lincoln is the only municipality in all of Niagara that hasn't raised it's Pride flag. As a result, I have also requested to add this matter for discussion at the June 29th Council meeting. I believe our community as well as Pride Niagara deserves an explanation to understand what exactly happened that has prevented our community from taking part in this year's event.

William



Dave Bylsma

Mon 08/06/2020 08:09

To: William Reilly

Cc: Witteveen, Albert <Albert.Witteveen@niagararegion.ca>; Beverly Hendry; Joanne Scime

Reply all | v

Good morning to all,

It's unfortunate that there's been a fair amount of discussion on this already and there are a couple of things to add to that discussion.

Firstly, and this is a reality for everyone, We live in an age of prolific emails and communications, Truth is I spend several minutes every email session just deleted spam and correspondence from copious sources. This is not an excuse but a reality.

That is why we have a historical municipal protocol that all official requests and correspondence goes through the clerk. That is the fail safe and official receiver of request and information not the mayor or regional councillor. I think that this point has been communicated elsewhere.

Secondly, The fact that both I and Albert received the communication is that the source was generated through the regional hats that we wear. This was confirmed by Previous Mayor who said he never raised a flag locally but did so at the region. Pride Niagara is the organization and the region has and continues to raise the pride flag at the headquarters.

Pride Niagara can make the request to West Lincoln and there is a protocol for the process outlined by the CAO.

Dave