

NCR Pride Committee
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
200 promenade du Portage
Philippe-Célestin Room
2nd floor, Suite 310, Gatineau, Quebec

Meeting minutes

1. Call to order
2. Welcome remarks by the chair
3. Agenda
4. Adoption of previous minutes
5. Discussion items

Pride Conference in Toronto, March 24 to 28, 2017

François asked who will be delegated. This is important given the many resolutions that will be presented. Delegates are: François Zarraga, Jacques Marengère, Pierre Larocque and Laura Elizabeth. François reminded people to participate in all their workshops as important issues will be discussed.

Financial update

We have \$1,500 as of February, with a \$46.73 expense for a supper.

Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) Solidarity & Pride Champion Award

François recommended that the Committee be registered for this award. He also suggested that we ask for more details about having a representative attend OFL meetings in the Toronto area and what the budget will be for a participant.

Regional PSAC-NCR Convention

François asked who will be attending the Convention. Laura Elizabeth indicated that she is a delegate. Pierre Larocque and Isabelle Gendron are late sending in their registration but will be doing so. At Convention, they will have to ask the assembly whether they can be official delegates.

Equity Committee Awareness/Building with PSAC members

Laura asked whether it is possible to join equity committees in each building since the majority of them have diversity groups. Isabelle suggested that we ask local presidents to make a presentation.

Pride Month

Can we make connections with equity committees in other buildings?

Actions/activities for International Day of Pink (April 12)

The committee will appoint two people as representatives and buy tickets to enable them to network instead of giving a grant without any real return.

Actions/activities for International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (Wednesday, May 17)

Isabelle suggested a film screening with discussion afterwards with organizers and participants.

Follow-up from previous minutes

At the June meeting, we will be discussing procedure for the parade or the kiosk.

There are several questions we need to ask PSAC-NCR REVP Larry Rousseau: What type of event should be organized to celebrate Canada's 150th? What funding is available to increase our visibility? How many volunteers are available and required? Will unions be collaborating? Isabelle added that, a few years ago, she was part of a

kiosk project organized by a group of unions advocating for various causes. At the time, the project cost approximately \$35,000. (area x \$ + promotional items).

Every year, the cost of organizing the Pride parade goes up and so do registration fees.

We must get in touch with PSAC GLBT members who meet every month and draw more than 300 participants. They don't want to discuss union or political issues. Some representatives were called out on it.

OFL

Isabelle delegated a member of the Women's Committee to OFL meetings held only in Toronto. However, for unknown reasons, there is no funding available. She asked Élisabeth Woods to follow up on this.

François indicated that the committee should be included in this award since we represent a large region with members in two provinces. We must register before May 6, 2017.

Pink Day

Laura Keading will represent the committee with another person and they will be networking.

Moved by Isabelle Gendron and seconded by Jacques Marengère

Diversity

Jacques asked Pierre Larocque to send the email from the contact person at the office who is the diversity advocate. I sent a reminder to the office and received the email concerning an opening in the GLBT Community office regarding an activity taking place this year.

Minutes from last meeting

André Poliquin and meeting with Jeremy Diaz

This item deals with Jeremy Diaz's proposals and the paper presented by André Poliquin on communities we should target. He is always asking our organization for money without really offering any services in return. The information provided does not provide much information about what is on site the day of the event. We should revisit this issue at the June meeting.

Isabelle spoke about her concerns with the co-operation between the committee and the Pride Festival Committee which she used to co-chair. She indicated that we must look at what is on paper and the final result. It is important to be an active member of the Pride Committee organizing the event before committing sums from membership dues. Isabelle asked Laura Elizabeth if she would have time to volunteer.

List and include activities offered.

Black Lives Matter

This movement forbids police officers from walking in the parade in uniform. Isabelle supports their cause because of a black friend in the US whose son was taken down by police in a predominantly white suburb of the South. She wants other people to follow suit. François disapproves of this action which is discriminatory against a group from the community. I feel the same way.

There followed a discussion about the action taken by this group to be heard. They held the Toronto Pride parade hostage, letting thousands of people cool their heels because they were rejecting a specific group, without just cause.

François mentioned that the Crapo and OAC are political committees that can be approached for help if the committee wants to go further in certain specific actions.

François discussed the 2016 Pride parade which went off without a hitch, except for the rain early on and during the official start. Our float

was designed as a huge boom box. There was a DJ and promotional items to throw in the crowd when the parade stopped.

But this type of event is very expensive, even if we split the cost with other groups. We need to brainstorm: What type of equipment do we want? How many volunteers do we need? What is the allocated budget? Larry, the REVP, has a discretionary budget and can therefore allocate more money. PIPSC and CAPE have confirmed their collaboration, but what about the PSAC? Should we contact all local presidents to convey the information?

The Pride Committee flag is very large and provides extraordinary visibility. However, we need to people to wave it in unison, because of the wind. In 2016, I suggested we hold it horizontally like the organization that picks up pennies. Therefore, we need 12 volunteers (six on each side) given the size of the flag.

As Pride Committee volunteers, we must decide what activities we want to organize and in which we will participate. We don't need a third party to do that for us. Communication remains the best solution.

Francois concluded that our organization operates out of two provinces which makes it unique. In our region, many organizations function with a limited budget. It is not to our advantage to always team up with the same ones. We must diversify our actions and provide support.

The Committee chair adjourned the meeting.

The next general meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2017.