

*** All present are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with our City's Core Values ***



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation or Sub-unit thereof.

Notice is hereby given that the **LIBERATION AND FREEDOM COMMITTEE** of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the: **LIBERATION AND FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU**
Date/Time: **Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.**
Location: **City Hall (407 Grant Street, Wausau WI 54403) - BOARDROOM - 2ND FLOOR and WEBEX**
Members: **Blake Opal-Wahoske (C), Tom Kilian, Andrea Oyuela, LaTanya Campbell, Carmyn Hoen, Brenton Wildman**

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (All items listed may be acted upon)

- 1 Call Meeting to Order/Approval of 9/30/20 minutes
- 2 Presentation and Discussion on a Gay Conversion Therapy Ban
- 3 Update and Discussion on Community Outreach
 - Community Survey
 - Social Media - Education
- 4 Proclamations
- 5 Adjournment

CHAIRPERSON: Blake Opal-Wahoske

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being held in person and via teleconference. Members of the media and the public may attend in person, subject to the social distancing rules of maintaining at least 6 feet apart from other individuals, or by calling 1-408-418-9388. The Access Code is 146 385 0516. Password: R2hRfMEMu62. Space available will be on a first come, first served basis. All public participants' phones will be muted during the meeting. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail kathi.groeschel@ci.wausau.wi.us in the Mayor's Office. All public comment, either by email or in person will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, program, or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the City's ADA Coordinator at 715-261-6620 or email clerk@ci.wausau.wi.us at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, Committee Members, Council Members



LIBERATION & FREEDOM COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. (Boardroom & Webex Videoconference)

Members Present: Opal-Wahoske, Decker, Kilian, Hoen, Wildman, Campbell

Members Excused: Oyuela

Others Present: Mayor Rosenberg, Kathi Groeschel

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Opal-Wahoske called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum of 6 was present.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made of 2 new members, Mr. Brenton Wildman and Tom Kilian.

3. Review of Minutes from 9/2/20

A motion was made by Campbell to accept the minutes and Kilian seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Review Mission and Goals

Chairman read the mission and goals to remind the member to keep these front and center as we go about our meeting today.

5. Discussion and possible action the creation of a community survey

Chairman Opal-Wahoske feels it would be important to reach out to all the various community groups such as the United Way, Hmong Association, PFPL, Toward One Wausau and others to assist us in creating the questions for the survey. Campbell added that all these groups will be able to contribute in a good way. Do we want to form the survey questions as a group, or should we engage and ask them for their input? Kilian agrees that reaching out to them would be helpful. Campbell will reach out to them and report back at the next meeting. Are there specific questions we would like to see in the survey? Campbell will invite representatives from the above groups to attend the next meeting. No action was taken.

6. Discussion and possible action of presence on social media

Chairman asked if the committee members feel we need one or would it better serve us to support others community partners that currently have a presence? Members felt that more support for others frees up our time to work on other initiatives and eliminate duplication of work. We should identify where the gaps are and push out various content and educational information frequently. We can be of help where needed. Wildman asked, what does support to the community partners means? Chairman earlier looked up each of the social groups mentioned and saw that some are very current and some aren't kept up as frequent. Exploration going forward is needed. No action was taken.

7. Discussion of Conversion Therapy Ban Policy

Chairman defined what Conversion Therapy is and indicated it is often referred to as "Reparative Therapy", often dangerous, discredited practices of changing sexual orientation and gender identity. Electro-shock therapy was used along with lobotomy and other efforts to cure

homosexuality and limiting homosexual urges related to sexual dysphoria. Hypnosis is also used. It can involve violent role playing and reenacting past abuses. Harm can be associated with it...such as suicide, self-blame, depression, social withdrawal, substance abuse, and decreases self-esteem. The LGBTQ+ youth, in general, are at a higher risk of suicidal behaviors. Those that have had conversion therapy are 8.4 times likely to attempt suicide. Chairman also provided other shocking statistics to the members. Twenty thousand LGBTQ youth will receive conversion therapy from a licensed healthcare professional before the age of 18 in 41 states that do not have a ban on this practice. Wisconsin does not have a ban, therefore it's falling upon cities to ban this practice. Currently there is bipartisan support in the state of Wisconsin. There have been bans already placed in Appleton, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Racine, Superior and other cities. If this is something we would like to pursue, Chairman Opal-Wahoske would like to invite Austin Kieler to our next meeting. He has worked with other communities and has formed his own group to ban this. To the Chairman's knowledge there is no licensed healthcare professional doing this therapy in Wausau or in Marathon County, however he feels placing a ban policy would send a strong message to our community that we would not tolerate this. All members were in support of this. The Chairman will invite Austin to our next meeting. Mayor reminded the members that this may garner media attention and to prepare for that.

Chairman asked if we could schedule regular meetings going forward and asked members when they thought they would like to meet. It was decided that every 3 weeks instead of monthly would work well. That was agreed upon and the next meeting will be October 21, 2020 at 3:30 pm offered both physically in the City Hall Boardroom and virtually via Webex. Meeting adjourned.