



MINUTES

Annual General Meeting Saturday, July 5, 2008

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS

Present:

Board of Directors: Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society

Kevin Kindred, Chair
Hugo Dann
Jenn Nearing
Gaston Saulnier, Secretary

Sean Foreman, Past Chair & Treasurer
Matthew Numer

Community Members:

A special welcome to two Rainbow Community members

Regrets:

Elaine Craig, Vice Chair
Ann Levangie

Charles Hsuen
Catherine Meade, Member-at-Large

[Meeting called to order at 13:03.]

1. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions

Kevin Kindred, Chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society (NSRAP/the Society), welcomed community members and the Directors of the Society to the 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Kindred thanked the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project for allowing NSRAP to use its space to hold the AGM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Matthew Numer, seconded by Sean Foreman, that the agenda of the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Kevin Kindred, seconded by Matthew Numer, that the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society be approved as distributed. MOTION CARRIED

4. Annual Activity Report – Kevin Kindred, Chair

TABLED: 2008 Annual Activity Report: Community – A Work in Progress

Kindred provided a brief overview of NSRAP's 2008 annual activity report. Highlights include:

- 1) August 2007: Equal Rights for Same-Sex Parents
NSRAP supported Jamie and Emily O'Neill in their fight for equality in being recognized as their daughter's legal parents under the *Vital Statistics Act* of Nova Scotia. NSRAP wrote to the minister responsible for the Act and supported the O'Neills in a human rights complaint against the Government of Nova Scotia.

Kindred stressed that this initiative was a great example of the legal and political advocacy efforts NSRAP can undertake for the Rainbow Community. NSRAP played a leading role in mobilizing a media campaign on this issue, a campaign which contributed to a favourable solution within a few days of filing the human rights complaint.

- 2) September 2007: Town Hall on Religious Freedoms and Equality Rights (Truro)
The event provided a forum to discuss the potential conflicts between religious rights and equality rights. The event was organized in response to the decision by the Town of Truro not to fly the Pride Flag.

NSRAP also supported the Northern AIDS Connection Society to lobby councillors of the Municipality of Pictou County to vote against a motion to restrict the type of flags permitted on the flagpoles of the municipal building.

NSRAP's participation in both initiatives enabled the Society to extend its outreach efforts outside the Halifax Regional Municipality. NSRAP focused on building a collaborative approach to lobby municipal governments to support their local Rainbow Community and to be leaders in fighting homophobia.

- 3) November 2007: Halifax Town Hall Meeting / Rainbow Community Centre Feasibility Study
The event encouraged discussion on establishing a Rainbow Community centre in Halifax; improving access and delivery of health care services to the Rainbow Community; and improving Atlantic Canada's Pride magazine, *Wayves*.

Kindred, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thanked Gaston Saulnier, NSRAP Secretary, for preparing the 2008 Annual Activity Report.

5. Financial Report – Sean Foreman, Past Chair and Treasurer

TABLED: Financial Statements: 2007-2008 (unaudited)

Sean Foreman, NSRAP Past Chair and Treasurer, presented highlights from the 2007-2008 financial statements:

- The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society had, at March 31, 2008, assets of \$13,074, largely from deferred revenues and accounts payable.
- The Society's Education Fund had, at March 31, 2008, a balance of \$871. These restricted funds are held in trust by the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church (Halifax).
- The 2008 Gala provided a revenue of \$5,951 to the Society.

a. Approval of the Financial Statements of 2007-2008

Moved by Matthew Numer, seconded by Hugo Dann, that the Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2008 of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society be approved as distributed. MOTION CARRIED

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Kindred recognized Foreman's work to update the Society's financial records.

6. Nominating Committee Report – Sean Foreman, Chair – Nominating Committee

TABLED:
Nominating Committee Report (2008)

a. Election of the Directors of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society for 2008-2009

Kindred asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none:

Moved by Sean Foreman, Chair – Nominating Committee, seconded by Kevin Kindred, that, pursuant to sections 21 through 36 of the By-Laws of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society, the following nine (9) members of the Society be elected and approved as Directors of the Society: Sean Foreman; Jennifer Nearing; Kevin Kindred; Gaston Saulnier; Ann Levangie; Elaine Craig; Hugo Dann; Matthew Numer; and Catherine Meade. MOTION CARRIED

Foreman pointed out that, pursuant to Section 22 of the Society's By-Laws, six (6) additional Directors could be elected to the Board of Directors. An extraordinary meeting would be required to fill the vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Kindred thanked all Board Members who agreed to serve another term and recognized the contributions and dedication towards the improvement of Nova Scotia's Rainbow Community that all Board Members throughout the past year.

Pursuant to Sections 33 through 36, the Officers of the Society are to be elected by the Directors.

[13:29]

7. Issues Roundtable / 2008-2009 Priorities

See Annexe A: Issues Roundtable: 2008-2009 Priorities

Kindred opened the floor to a roundtable discussion on the issues and the priorities NSRAP could address during 2008-2009.

[14:20]

8. Special Thanks

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Kindred thanked:

- Elaine Craig, Vice Chair, for the support during the past year.
- Jenn Nearing for working to update the NSRAP website.
- Gaston Saulnier, Secretary, for keeping the records of the Society and ensuring that Board responsibilities, initiatives, and actions were effectively communicated.

9. Adjournment

Sean Foreman moved that the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society be adjourned at 14:25.

Respectfully submitted by:
Gaston R. Saulnier
Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 3, 2009

Legend:
Italic: Business and/or publication name;
Bold: Section title;
Underline: Motion; and



ANNEXE A: ISSUES ROUNDTABLE: 2008-2009 PRIORITIES

**Annual General Meeting
Saturday, July 5, 2008**

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS

[13:29]

As part of the 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society (NSRAP\the Society), Kevin Kindred, Chair, opened the floor to a roundtable discussion on the issues and the priorities NSRAP could address during 2008-2009.

Communications

- Keep NSRAP website content up to date
- Implement a simple, cleaner website format
- Promote, individually and collectively, the mission and the specific initiatives of NSRAP
- Diversify advertising and marketing efforts; not rely only on electronic media (Internet, email, etc.), but also include articles, advertisements, and notices in print, radio, and television media
- Increase communication between NSRAP and the community; prepare a quarterly or bi-annual newsletter or report to the membership\community

Community Development

- Continue efforts to complete a feasibility study on the establishment of a Rainbow Community centre in Halifax
- Address the need for resources and support for our aging LGBTTTQI folk

Organizational Development

- Overcome the challenges associated with running a society without staff – with a complement of volunteers
- Invite members who are not Directors of the Society to collaborate on NSRAP initiatives. The Gala Committee is a leading example of this structure.
- Ensure a diverse representation of the Rainbow Community on the Board of Directors of NSRAP

ANNEXE A: ISSUES ROUNDTABLE: 2008-2009 PRIORITIES (continued)

Organizational Development (continued)

- Organize a yearly strategic development session to determine the Society's priorities; prepare a strategic plan for the Society
- Formalize the reporting and business planning structures and processes of the Society

Outreach

- Increase awareness within the community of NSRAP's willingness and capability to speak to various issues of interest to the Rainbow Community during events, conferences, and forums
- Reach out to municipal and town councils outside the Halifax Regional Municipality to support local Pride groups and Pride events

Trans Issues

- Refocus efforts on education and promoting greater awareness of trans issues, particularly outside the Halifax Regional Municipality

[14:20]
