



Minutes

Hamilton Civic League

Working Group Meeting 5 – Wednesday, November 11, 2009

At the House of Dance (145 Main Street East)

Meeting: 7:30-8:30 p.m. Discussion: 8:30-8:50 p.m.

Attendance: 10

Our Vision

All eligible Hamiltonians will vote in the next municipal election as informed, empowered and engaged citizens in order to bring about positive change to our city.

Our Mission

Our mission is to develop an all-inclusive, non-partisan civic league representing Hamilton community stakeholders to encourage and inspire our community to become informed about local issues, to raise community involvement in local democracy, and to support accountability, accessibility and transparency in our municipal government.

Meeting

1. Introductions

2. Acceptance of the Minutes

Minutes were accepted as read

3. Updates from Last Meeting's Action Items

- a. New Member Recruitment – Everyone
 - i. 4 new members have joined through the week
 - ii. Jarod is talking to a few friends about the HCL and a number of them are interested
 - iii. Meredith is waiting for an official partnership with Crossfire Assembly and then will contact about 50 of their members individually
 - iv. Jarod has yet to connect with MSA president regarding partnership
 - v. Dawn from North End Neighbours has made some connections
 - vi. David Van Beveren has recruited a couple people from Waterdown
- b. Partnership Documents – David Van Beveren, Meredith
 - i. Partnership Letter (David's) is ready to go and needs to be uploaded
 - ii. Partnership Form is ready to go and needs to be uploaded
 - iii. Extended Partnership Letter has been started (Meredith) and still needs work
 - Meredith and David will work on it via e-mail this week
 - iv. Suggestions and comments are welcome
- c. Website Uploads/Updates – Brian
 - i. All the meeting minutes have been posted on the website
 - ii. Other documents are still to go up
 - iii. Site will be checked for consistency

- iv. Brian has to follow up with Adam from the Civic engagement at Mac
- d. Kelly – meeting with Tony (elections manager)
 - i. Met this week (Larry also attended)
- e. Michelle – Hamilton Community Foundation
 - i. Has contacted them and e-mailed HCL about it
 - ii. Larry will follow up this week.

4. Growing our Membership

- a. How to add interest to discussing/learning about local politics
 - i. David Van Beveren will write articles
 - First, Durand newspaper article (Due the 20th of November)
 - ii. Groups we will focus on
 - How to reach/Who are partners/contact people for the following groups?
 - a. Renters
 - b. Newcomers and cultural groups
 - c. Voters under 25
 - d. Apathetic groups – why?
 - iii. Media will be a big help here
 - The use of slogans, potentials:
 - a. “Do you *want* to live here, or do you *have* to live here?”
 - b. “Above all, For Hamilton”
 - Using a lighter side to engage people
 - Hope
 - Promotional material
 - a. David Hart Dyke will start working on some promotional materials
 - b. Possible forms to start
 - i. Business cards (most useful)
 - ii. Brochure
 - iii. Other?
 - Slogans
 - Graphic Design
 - a. David Van Beveren has potential contacts
 - Video/Commercials
 - a. Jarod will contact the media department at Mohawk this week about a potential video contest next semester
 - b. Keenan mentioned finding or creating an animation (similar to school house rock)
 - c. Larry will contact a friend regarding this
 - Educational videos with the city
 - a. The city already has a training video for volunteers at the polling stations, and will be updating them and giving them to us

5. Grants, Fundraising and Sponsorship

- a. Identifying Funding Sources
 - i. David Van Beveren has found 4 potential funding sources
 - Some may not fund nonprofits, only charities
 - Two are in \$2000 range, two have not specified available funding

- He has been making a list of important contacts and making phone calls in advance to inform that a letter will be on the way
- b. Possible Holiday Event
 - i. "Give the gift of Civic Engagement"
 - ii. Potential Nutcracker Ticket sales, profit \$5/ticket
 - For this year, only feasible if we connect with a group interested (e.g. schools)
 - Next year, with the right contacts could be very helpful

6. Other Business

- a. Survey planning
 - i. Meredith Vanstone (UWO) has offered her help but has not heard back yet.
 - Meredith Broughton will e-mail her this week to stay in touch
- b. The voting date has been moved forward to October 25th 2010
 - i. All documents (website) should be updated to reflect this.
- c. Connecting with other groups
 - i. Muslim community meeting Saturday 15th regarding civic engagement
 - ii. LGBT community in Hamilton
 - Low profile in Hamilton but an important connection to make

Open Discussion

7. What are the issues?

- a. How can we start to identify issues, begin discussion, and remain nonpartisan?
 - i. Begin to list and recognize important issues and invite conversations
 - E.g. Hosting a forum for conversation "hot topic" issues
 - a. e.g. LRT, sewers, airport, jobs
 - b. Possibly monthly forums leading up to the election
 - Upcoming Hamilton LRT Meeting
 - a. Keenan, Meredith and Brian will attend
 - b. They may be interested in hosting a transit forum or multiple ones.

Action Items

- a. New Member Recruitment – Everyone
- b. Partnership Documents and Recruitment
- c. Promotional Material – David Hart Dyke
- d. Videos/Media connections
- e. Articles – David Van Beveren
- f. Funding Sources – David Van Beveren
- g. Website Uploads/Updates – Brian
- h. Other

