

MAYOR'S LGBTQ+ ADVISORY BOARD



A NEW DAY.

Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, June 5, 2026, 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Main Library | 303 N Laura St | Conference Room G4

Meeting Notes – June 5, 2026

Present: Jessica, Dan, Jim, Mason, Amy, Cindy

Excused absences: Derrick, Karrissa

Resignation: Jacob Eleazer

Staff Present: Sara King, Tereese Goodloe, Tracye Polson, Phill Perry, Jimmy Midyett, Aleksandra Sedyuk

1. **Call to order** – Board Chair, Cindy Watson called the meeting to order at 12:35pm and welcomed all with an acknowledgement that this is LGBTQ Pride Month! A quorum was present. Cindy announced that Dr. Jake Eleazer resigned this month due to work conflicts.

2. **Approval of Meeting Notes:**

- The meeting minutes from 05/01/2026 were presented by Cindy, who noted the meeting minutes were sparse due to breakdown in recording equipment and absence of staff to take minutes. The notes obtained from the Teams Meeting AI feature were presented, and Cindy invited all to make recommendations for corrections. The minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

3. **Guest:** Mayor Donna Deegan – Cindy welcomed Mayor Donna Deegan and encouraged all to introduce themselves. The mayor spoke about her promise as Mayor to welcome all people into city government. This promise includes the LGBTQ Community. The mayor reiterated her support and encouragement for the work of the Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board and encouraged the group to be involved and share information with the mayor's office and city departments. She acknowledged the challenges for the LGBTQ community vis a vis state legislation that attempts to cancel DEI work. However, the advisory boards can carry on under guidance with no dedicated funds or resources allocated, according to the General Counsel's office. The mayor stated that she believes people should be who they are and thrive and feel love for who they are in this city. She stated that she will comply with state laws that may diminish the LGBTQ community but that our hearts will not be changed by this. She wants to continue to support the LGBTQ community and especially the young people.

4. **Old Business:**

Chair: Cindy Watson | **Vice-Chair:** Jessica Sabin | **Secretary:** Karrissa Wade-Davis | **Members:** Amy Glassman, Mason Manion, Jim Piggott, Manuel Andrade, Daniel Merkan, Derrick Scott III, & S. Marie Hester

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- Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Month Ceremony & Proclamation update – Mason gave an update on the ceremony, speakers, music. The staff shared the marketing logo and efforts to get the work out. All are encouraged to share on social media. The planning committee will meet for final confirmations on June 17.
 - 10:00 AM on Friday, June 26th
 - Location – City Hall, Atrium
- Trust Fund Updates – Phill Perry will follow up with the General Counsel's Office to determine if Trust Funds are allowable for Mayor's Advisory Boards, as a mechanism for private dollars to be donated to this Board for events and projects.
- Housing Updates - Jimmy Midyette reported that the issue has been resolved, and the city has determined that the President's Executive Order will prevail in the grantmaking for Federal Housing dollars; this will result in no funding for JASMYN, Inc. for youth housing services due to their mission of support for LGBTQ youth. The dollars are still available in the HCCD Department.
- Other follow up from previous meeting – The Advisory Board name tags are still in process. The city Website now includes a page for the MLGBTQAD work, where members are listed, and meetings and minutes and possibly a community calendar may be hosted. Phil Perry gives this update at the next meeting. Mason will connect with Phil regarding the calendar ideas from the Legislation Education Policy committee.

5. New Business:

6. Subcommittee Reports:

- *Arts, Culture, Entertainment and Recreation Committee – Manny Andrade, Chair –*
- *Health Wellness and Public Safety – Jake Eleazer, Chair –* Dan Merkan, Vice Chair, is now the Chair of this committee and new people are invited to join. Dan reported that the Committee wishes to bring speakers to the Advisory Board and also the LGBTQ Community on two health priority issues:
 - Dan moved to host an opportunity for a panel to discuss Transgender health issues under new laws and executive orders. Amy made the second. The board discussed this idea in context of a Community Town Hall being planned for October by the Legislative Committee. Suggestions for speakers include: Simone Chriss and Dr. Sanchez. The Board approved this motion to move forward, in conjunction with the Legislative Education Committee for the panel presentation at a Community Town Hall.
 - Dan moved to request an update on the Fast Track Cities HIV Treatment and Prevention Initiative with an invitation to Dr. Sunil Joshi and city health staff to give

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an update on this initiative at a future Advisory Board Meeting. Mason made the second. After brief discussion, the motion passed unopposed.

- *Legislation Education and Policy – Mason Manion, Chair* – The committee has met to plan the LGBTQ Pride Month Celebration and Proclamation on June 26. They have also worked on ideas for a Community Calendar, linking with other calendars, to post on our website. The Committee is planning an Advisory Board Town Hall for October 15, to be held in conjunction with the Community Town Hall held the third Thursday of each month. They will work with the Health Wellness Committee to produce the health panel. They want to also encourage young people to participate in their committee meetings.

7. Chair Report: Cindy Watson offered words of encouragement during Pride month.

8. Public comment: By Speaker Card – 10 minutes (3-5 in 2 or 3 mins each)

- Joseph Miller requested to comment online. His question: Are these meetings recorded so people can participate from the community? The board and staff responded that meetings are recorded but a public records request is required to get the recording. However, meeting minutes will be available soon from the website and the board will look into ways to make the meeting accessible.

9. Announcements / Calendar of Events:

- There are many events occurring this month for PRIDE Month, which were shared with those present:
 - June 5 – Acosta Bridge March and Main Street Bridge lights
 - June 6 – Fernandina Beach Pride Festival
 - June 12 – Pulse Memorial Event
 - Jun 13 – St. Augustine Pride Festival
 - HER Mixhers are scheduled throughout June
- Dan announced that NFAN is moving its offices to 751 Oak Street, Suite 520; closing from June 26 – June 30 and reopening in the new location on July 1.

10. Adjourn – The chair adjourned the meeting at 1:58 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Watson, Chair.