

MAYOR'S LGBTQ+ ADVISORY BOARD



A NEW DAY.

Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Meeting Minutes For Tuesday, February 6, 2026

Members Present: Cindy Watson, Chair; Jessica Sabin, Vice Chair; Karrissa Wade-Davis, Secretary; Jacob Eleazer (Jake), Amy Glassman, Mason Manning, Jim Piggot, Manuel Andrade (Manny), and Dan Merkan. **Absent:** Marie Hester **Virtual:** Derrick Scott III

Staff Present: Kara Tucker, Chief, Sara King, Program Manager, and Tereese Goodloe, Executive Assistant of Disabled Services Division

Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2026 (Cindy's Notes)

1. Welcome / Call to Order – The chair called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM, and welcomed Advisory Board members, city staff and guests. Introductions were made. The chair noted that a quorum of the board was present, and that excused absences were granted for Maria Hester and Jim Piggot. All other members were in attendance at the meeting. Derrick attended through the online portal provided.
2. The approval of December 19, 2025, minutes was moved by Manny with the second by Amy. All approved. The approval of January 23, 2026, Training and Planning Meeting minutes were moved by Manny, with the second by Dan. All approved.
3. Speaker – There was no speaker available for this meeting.
4. Old Business – The chair invited each of the three committees to meet for 20 minutes during the meeting to conduct these tasks: select a Vice Chair and recorder for meeting notes, identify top priorities for next 3 months, identify possible speakers and / or events related to committee priorities. Guests were invited to participate in the committee breakouts, as the chair explained that according to the by-laws, non-Advisory Board members may participate on committees with the approval by the chair, but the chair and vice chair positions must be filled by Advisory Board members. Following these meetings, each committee provided the following report:
 - a. Arts, Culture, Entertainment and Recreation committee, chaired by Manny, with Jessica, Karrisa, and Amy;

This committee discussed concerns about escalation of violence targeting the LGBTQ+ community and LGBTQ+ spaces. The committee will focus on increasing visibility of the MLGBTQ+AB, work to identify June Pride Month events and participate with the 10th Anniversary commemoration of the

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Pulse Nightclub Attack on June 14. Karrisa Wade will be the Vice Chair. Suggestion was made for a speaker from the Stonewall Sorts League.

- b. Health Wellness and Public Safety – chaired by Jake, with Dan and Derrick (not in the room) -

The committee discussed the Fast Track Cities for HIV Interventions initiative and suggested finding a speaker and looking for ways to collaborate. The committee discussed the need for inclusive safe spaces for the community and especially transgender people and wants to seek collaboration with Recreation and Parks. Public safety was also noted, and a desire to open a channel of communication with JSO and find resources to help people get to safety. A Vice Chair will be selected at their next meeting.

- c. Legislation Education and Policy, chaired by Mason, with Amy, Jessica, and Jim (absent).

This committee discussed the youth outreach component and ideas to develop workshops on civic engagement for young people. There is also a need to develop a community calendar of events. The committee would like to host or collaborate on a Town Hall meeting with the community. Several speakers suggested including Josh Hicks in COJ Housing Programs, Dr. Tracy Polson and Steven Dare with the City, Jon Harris Mauer with Equality Florida, Katie Hathaway with Public School Defenders, and Council Member Jimmy Peluso. Amy was selected as Vice Chair.

A question was raised whether this Advisory Board will be responsible or engaged in the planning of the annual city hall June Pride Celebration ceremony this year. Cindy will follow up with the mayor's office for clarification.

Kara Tucker reported that there will be a page for this Advisory Board on the city website in the future, where meeting minutes and information about the Advisory board and upcoming events may be available. These pages are common features under the Boards and Commissions link.

5. New Business – None

- 6. Chair's Report – Cindy reminded the Advisory Board of Sunshine Law protocols regarding email correspondence to other board members. Also, the 2026 meeting scheduled has been distributed and future meetings will be held in the Main Library Conference center with electronic meeting access. Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend the meetings in person, and to let staff know if they need to attend remotely to ensure that we have a quorum in the room for all meetings.

7. Public Comment –

- James Eddy provided public comment to notify people that the planning for the 2026 Pulse Night Club commemoration event will begin on Sunday, and anyone is welcome to join this work.

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8. Announcements / Calendar of Events:

- Autumn announced that JASMYN's Strides for Pride 5k race will be held on Sunday, April 26, and asked if this Advisory Board could assist in asking for the mayor's presence at this event.
- Tina Wirth announced that the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is interested in supporting data collection on the LGBTQ+ community. Tina also convenes a group of service providers called Jax Youth Allies. Information can be found at jaxallies.org
- October 10 is the annual Reza Ride.
- Erin Bigalk announced that on February 21 there is a Jacksonville Parent and Community Summit sponsored by JASMYN, Equality Florida, and PFLAG.
- Jimmy Midyette announced that Mayor's African American Advisory Board is holding an event on February 18 at 6:00pm at the Hicks Auditorium in the Main Library.
- Cindy announced the next meeting of the Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board will be on March 6 in the Main Library.

Manny offered the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.