

**MINUTES  
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 18, 2026**

Present: Vice Chair Dolly Haddad, Commissioners Angela Crow, Derek Cartagena, Katherine Marrotte, Tamara Anika Dane, Shanay Fulton, Laura Timmons, and Cayes Jarda.

Members of the Public: Haley Stafford.

1. **Call to Order By Chairperson.** Vice Chair Haddad called the meeting to order.
2. **Approval of the Minutes for the February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting and March 2, 2026 Special Meeting of the LGBTQIA+ Commission.**

**MOTION:** Shanay Fulton made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting. Motion was seconded by Derek Cartagena. Motion was approved unanimously. Cayes Jarda was absent from the vote.

**MOTION:** Tamara Anika Dane made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 2, 2026 Special Meeting of the LGBTQIA+ Commission. Motion was seconded by Katherine Marrotte. Motion was approved with Angela Crow, Derek Cartagena, Katherine Marrotte, Tamara Anika Dane voting in the affirmative. Laura Timmons, Dolly Haddad and Shanay Fulton abstained from the vote. Cayes Jarda was absent from the vote.

3. **Public Session on Agenda Items.** None.
4. **New Business.**
  - A. **Submitted Applications for Proposed Events.** None.
  - B. **Yearly Events.**
    - I. Pride Month (June). See below.
    - II. Non-Binary People's Day.
    - III. LGBTQ+ History Month (October).
    - IV. National Coming Out Day (October).
    - V. Transgender Day of Remembrance (November).
    - VI. Transgender Day of Visibility (March). See below.
    - VII. Community Dinner.

**5. Old Business.**

**A. Middletown PrideFEST 2026.**

I. PrideFEST 2026 Roles and Responsibilities (Commissioner Skowera).

Dolly Haddad stated that the commissioners are all hands on deck. The Commissioners discussed having a theme for the Pride Rally. Derek Cartagena provided an update on the Pride Showcase. Invitations had been sent out to give last year's performers first right of refusal. Of the 31 invitations that went out 29 have confirmed.

**B. Middletown Pride Community Events Program.**

(Total approved spending for FY 2025-2026: \$18,635.)

I. Gayme Night monthly, from 6-9 pm at Back Again Board Games, cost including gratuity is \$880 for 30-39 people, \$1,100 for 40-46 people (Commissioners Haddad and Marrotte).

Katherine Marrotte stated that about 28 people attended, which was a good turnout despite the rain.

II. Transgender Day of Visibility 5k Fundraiser, March 29, 2026 from 9 am to 12 pm, at Wesleyan University Indoor Track, cost \$80 for ASL interpreters. (Commissioner Loomis-Davern).

Tamara Anika Dane provided an update regarding the event.

**MOTION:** Angela Crow made a motion to amend the agenda to add Item 4(B)(III) Transgender Day of Visibility at Wesleyan. Motion was seconded by Laura Timmons. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. Transgender Day of Visibility Event at Wesleyan, April 2, 2026 at 4:30 p.m., at Daniel Family Commons, sponsorship cost \$0 (Commissioner Skowera). No updates.

**C. Middletown Pride Grant Program (Commissioner Skowera).**

I. Q+ Grant Program. No updates.

II. Peer Pride Grant Program. No updates.

III. LGBTQIA+ Peer Support Grant Program at St. Vincent DePaul. No updates.

**D. Middletown Pride Scholarship Program Update (Commissioner Shapiro). No updates.**

**E. Taking Pride on Main Street Initiative Update (Commissioner Skowera). No updates.**

**F. Connecticut Pride Summit 2026 (Commissioner Marrotte).** Katherine Marrotte attended the pride summit and loved being able to talk to different pride organizations. Discussions regarding fundraising were had that could do well in Middletown.

**6. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Shanay Fulton made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Angela Crow. Motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned.