

**SPECIAL BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
CITY OF DE PERE, WISCONSIN – OCTOBER 23, 2017**

The Board of Health of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin met in regular session in the Riverview Conference room at City Hall, on Monday, October 23rd at 5:17 p.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Pat Finder-Stone, Ryan Jennings, Dennis Hibray, Casey Nelson, Deborah Armbruster, and Judy Schmidt-Lehman. Missing were Drs. Richard Erdman and Michael McHenry.

1. Anti-discrimination ordinance proposal

Casey Nelson talked about the two studies he presented to the Board of Health at the September 25th meeting. He said there is a 41% suicide attempt rate in transgender individuals. 7% of transgender population attempted suicide in one year time period which is 12 times the national rate for suicide attempts. The LGBTQ community is discriminated against i.e. have trouble securing housing, employment, access to restrooms. Casey said he is glad he has input for the city and is why he became an alderperson. He went on to say that anything we can do to embrace the LGBTQ community in De Pere. 20 states have similar ordinances and in WI Milwaukee County, Madison, Appleton, Sun Prairie do also. Pat Finder-Stone stated she strongly supports this ordinance. States the ordinance is very comprehensive and likes “De Pere setting the pace.” Ryan Jennings stated the safety issue is a big thing and that he definitely is in support of this ordinance. He also said “All persons are created equal.”

Dennis Hibray then opened the session for discussion from the public. First speaker was Dr. Stacie Christian 800 Allouez Tr. Green Bay 54301. She identified herself as a professor at UWGB and has been involved with Inclusiveness over the past 6 years working for equity for gender identity. She gave her personal experience being married to a woman for 24 years. She also stated that transgender and gender identity issues are now being looked at in the City of Green Bay. She then spoke to Assembly Bill 418 and Senate Bill 328. Next speaker was John Grunseth 3918 St. Croix Circle W Green Bay 54301 who said he is a retired HR professional. Stated as far back as 1982 Governor Dreyfus addressed having protected status for gender identity. John shared his personal experience with his daughter and daughter-in-law. He said his daughter is fearful of obtaining employment, fearful of her safety. States there is no protection for “these” individuals. His daughter has had medical care refused and states 42% of the LGBT community has health insurance versus 59% of the general population. Next speaker was Annette Grunseth 3918 St. Croix Circle W Green Bay WI 54301. She said her daughter is transgender. States her daughter is always looking over her shoulder. Daughter has specific health guidelines to abide by and has to drive to Appleton for this protocol for hormone therapy and regular bloodwork. Her daughter is not able to afford medical care for her medical needs. Annette said the LGBT community is higher risk for suicide. Due to limited access to restrooms her daughter she is fearful of going out or when she does go out she holds her urine and develops kidney infections.

Dennis Hibray then closed the meeting to public discussion. Dennis asked city attorney Judy Schmidt-Lehman if there are any concerns with the proposed anti-discrimination ordinance and Judy said no. Ryan stated he wants people to be treated equally. Motion was made to give blessing on this ordinance and recommend approval. Motion seconded. Unanimous approval given. Ordinance will be on the city council agenda for 11-7-2017.

2. Discussion regarding the proposed consortium with City of Menasha for Environmental Health Services

Debbie discussed why a consortium is being proposed and what it would mean for the City of De Pere. Pat motioned to develop a consortium. Ryan and Dennis seconded it. Dennis said having these services add value to the community. It was also stated that this program brings value to the

businesses and community as well as safety. Unanimous approval was given. This will be brought to the City Council when a contract and ordinance change have been drafted.

3. Adjournment

The Board of Health unanimously adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Armbruster
Health Director