

# Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: 2024-01-18

Tonight's Chair: Bill Barnert

Attendance (X = Here, LOA = Leave of Absence, *Blank* = Absent):

COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	STAFF	Pre-sent?
Badriyyah Alsabah		Linden Huhmann	X	Carolina Almonte	X
Bill Barnert	X	M. Joyce-Anderson	X	Amelia Joselow	
Bob Bordone	X	Mary Gardner	X	Phoebe Hallahan	X
Cindy Telingator	X	Noelani Kamelamela	X	Sarah Binney	X
Frank Arce	X	Olivia Sevey		<b>GUESTS</b>	
Gregory MacDonough	X	Warner Santiago		Liana Laughlin	
Jason Doo		Zack Dresser	X		
Kat Long	X				
Lauryn McNair	X				

**Location:** Hybrid -- In person at 51 Inman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor; and on Zoom (*see below*).

## NOTE

This meeting is being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of January instead of the 4<sup>th</sup>, because of a training conflict on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Agenda**

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Frank Arce

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Bill Barnert

1. **Welcome**
2. **Assign Minute Taker** - Zack Dresser
3. **Approve / Modify Agenda**
4. **Approve Previous Minutes** - no minutes since September, not able to approve them now
5. **Introductions**
6. **Announcement from Frank** - Frank stepping down as co-chair after 1.5 years. If anyone is

interested, let Bill know.

7. **Project Updates** (current actions, and plans) including reports from Carolina, Sarah, Amelia, & Phoebe
  - Documents moved from OneDrive to SharePoint - Carolina sent out an email regarding SharePoint. Any issues reach out to Carolina and there is an IT person on stand by to assist.
  - Marriage Equality Celebration, May 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> - there is a working group and Carolina would like two Commissioners to be on working group. (Cindy Telingator & Bob Bordone interested)
    - Want to take this anniversary to advocate to have more gender inclusive marriage licenses.
  - Sarah: History Cambridge is working on a project relating to queer folks living in Cambridge. Would like commissioners to fill out surveys.
  - Phoebe: SAGE table volunteer event - 3-5 volunteers requested sometime in April (Bill, Lauryn, Zack)

## 8. Working Group Reports

- All-Gender Bathrooms - no update
- Budget - no update
- City Forms - no update
- Communications - no update
- Community Center - no update
- Diversity - no update
- Events:
  - **National Coming Out Day** is October 11<sup>th</sup> (a Friday this year). While it may seem very early to start planning, what we want to do is collect stories ahead of time and put together a web presentation to be released in October (format to be decided). In order to collect stories from students, we need to get them this semester. Who is interested in working on this project? (M Joyce-Anderson volunteered to help, Zack Dresser offered to provide story)
  - **Starlight Square**: We do not yet know whether there will be a Starlight Square 2024 season. If there is, and we decide to produce an event, we will need lots of help.
  - **Community Pride Picnic**: We will once again be partnering with the Longfellow House to host a Community Pride Picnic, most likely in June. Rainbows Across Communities may also do another multi-town Community Pride Picnic.
- Handbook – The Handbook & By-Laws need to be updated to reflect the new staff/commissioner structure, and the By-Laws will be replaced by a Rules of Procedure document. Who is interested in helping out? (Kat Long & Frank Arce)
- Housing - update from Linden Huhmann
  - i. LGBTQ+ Housing Task Force - gender inclusivity in housing language (rental application pool, etc.), who can/has to share a bedroom
  - ii. Zoning law language - email Linden if you want to speak in support of the updated zoning laws at the January 29<sup>th</sup> city council meeting
- Public Health & Safety - no update
- Pride Brunch - no update
- Recruitment - recruiting new co-chair to replace Frank Arce
- Strategic Planning
- Youth - no update

## 9. Old Business

10. **New Business** - recruiting a co-chair

11. **Report from Rainbows Across Communities** - not much going on now

## 12. Public Comments / Announcements

- Podcast called **Embedded** did a series of transgender interviews (perhaps a good idea to get students to come to an intergenerational meal).
- Queer bookstore in Somerville (All She Wrote) perhaps invite them to the marriage equality celebration
- Doing a photo exhibit at the library

13. **Next Commission Meeting**: Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, 6-7:30 PM, Hybrid (same as tonight)  
Chief of Equity & Inclusion will be in attendance.