

# Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: June 23, 2022 6:00pm

Tonight's Chair: Bill Barnert

Tonight's Minutes: Kate Grams

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

COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	STAFF	Pre-sent?
Badriyyah Alsabah	X	Lauryn McNair	X	Jennifer Mathews	X
Bill Barnert	X	Lesley Phillips		Amelia Joselow	X
Bob Bordone		Linden Huhmann			
Cameron Van Fossen		Noelani Gabriel Holt		<b>GUESTS</b>	
Frank Arce	X	Noelani Kamelamela		Julie Croston, Healthy Children Task Force & Caregivers of LGBTQ+ Kids	
Gregory MacDonough		Olivia Sevey	X	Police Commissioner Christine Elow	
Kat Long	X	Soltan Bryce	X	Three silent community members.	
Kate Grams	X	Warner Santiago	X		

## Agenda

Co-Chairs: Noelani Gabriel Holt and Bill Barnert

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Bill Barnert

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Assign Minute Taker**

Kate Grams is the minute taker.

3. **Approve / Modify Agenda**

There are no additions to tonight's agenda.

4. **Approve Previous Minutes**

May minutes are approved unanimously.

## 5. Old Business

- Healthy Children Task Force - Updates and potential collaboration

Julie Croston comes to the commission as a member of the Cambridge Healthy Children Task Force and Caregivers of LGBTQ Kids for possible collaboration. She would like the commission's assistance with finding / arranging speakers for LGBTQ kids and/or parents. Bill Barnert suggested collaboration with the commission's Youth Working Group. We will arrange to send representative(s) to the Healthy Children Task Force meeting in July. Interested members were Bill, Kate, Frank and Olivia.

The HCTF is concerned with bullying and results of the teen health survey showing an increased rate of self harm, suicidality, and mental distress specifically among trans kids in middle and high school.

## 6. New Business

- Q&A and discussion with Cambridge Police Commissioner Christine Elow

Commissioner Elow comes to the commission for her first meeting as commissioner. The commission will revisit the policy of inviting the Cambridge Police to specific meetings only and identifying these meetings on our website and agenda. Commissioner Elow stresses that police have representatives on city commissions to strengthen ties with the community and that an increasing number of officers identify as LGBTQ.

Commissioner Elow addressed several commissioner questions and concerns:

- ❖ Commissioner Elow would not need to be in uniform to attend future meetings when city commissions again are allowed to meet in person
- ❖ The police department follows several statistics to identify biased policing (interactions, stops, demographics, reasons for citing, patterns of behavior, complaints, use of force) and do extensive background investigations into police prior to hire.
- ❖ Cambridge Police continue to stress alternative to the criminal justice system whenever appropriate utilizing the Clinical Support Unit, Case Manager, SW
- ❖ Cambridge will implement the Cambridge Community Safety Department to offer alternative to non-violent and behavioral health crises. Emergency number will be 988.
- ❖ Commissioner Elow stressed that traffic stops are centered around high accident locations, stressing education and enforcement.
- ❖ New LGBTQ training will be starting for new recruits and the city is looking for Inservice training for existing officers.
- ❖ Commissioner Elow reports that the only part of "8 Can't Wait" (<https://8cantwait.org>) that was missing from the Cambridge Police Department policy was the duty to intervene and that was added after these guidelines were released.

## 7. Project Updates

- Senior housing report / Story Map is posted ([https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/glbtccommission/seniorsreport\\_final.pdf](https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/glbtccommission/seniorsreport_final.pdf))
- Possible town hall was suggested to brainstorm ideas for new projects
- Jennifer is reviewing a policy order re: LGBTQ+ friendly housing

## 8. Working Group Reports

- All-Gender Bathrooms - DPW will update signage and city will communicate to Cambridge businesses requesting that they convert all single stall bathrooms to all gender bathrooms
- Communications
  - Purchasing new swag - for WG to discuss
  - Current WG members: Badriyyah AlSabah, Bill Barnert, Bob Bordone, Lauryn McNair, Noe Kamelamela (Amelia asked to be removed.)
- Community Center - LGBTQ Program Lead position posted ([https://www2.cambridgema.gov/viewjoblisting.cfm?Job\\_ID=2867](https://www2.cambridgema.gov/viewjoblisting.cfm?Job_ID=2867))
- Diversity
- Events
  - Queer Cabarets from Stones to Rainbows (update?)
  - June 29 at 7pm - [Porter Square Panel - LGBTQ+ Sci-fi and Fantasy Recommendations](#)- Comm. Kate Grams will be part of the LGBTQ+ SciFi and Fantasy Recommendation Panel. This will be a virtual event on Crowdcast.
  - Starlight Square - Saturday, Sept. 10 - Team assembled & working towards the event
- Handbook - Tabled: Would someone like to review & propose updates? With or without a working group. Public Health & Safety
  - Current members: Noe K., Greg MacDonough, Olivia Sevey
  - Add Soltan (done)
  - Send current policy to Working Group (done)
  - Looking for additional members
- Pride Brunch
  - Recap and Lessons for 2023
- Recruitment
- Strategic Planning
- Youth
  - Before the pandemic, we started to interview all the local GSA's to find out from the students what it was they wanted us to do. But that got shut down after only one interview.

- Let's meet towards the end of the Summer, to restart in the Fall. With the departure of John & Nefyn, we are currently four people & would welcome new faces. (Noe Kamelamela, Amelia Joselow, Kate Grams, Bill Barnert)

**9. Report from Rainbows Across Communities**

**Rainbows Across Communities** now has representatives from 9 towns & 6 other groups:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arlington</li> <li>● Belmont</li> <li>● Bridgewater</li> <li>● Lexington</li> <li>● Quincy</li> <li>● Sharon</li> <li>● Somerville</li> <li>● Watertown</li> <li>● Woburn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Greater Boston PFLAG</li> <li>● LGBT Elders of Color</li> <li>● MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth</li> <li>● Network for Social Justice</li> <li>● Old Cambridge Baptist Church</li> <li>● OUT MetroWest</li> </ul>
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Upcoming local free Pride events include:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	NOTES
Saturday June 25	12-1:30p m	North Shore Pride Parade and Festival	Salem	Brunch, parade, festival, after party; parade lineup 9am, starts 10am. <a href="https://northshorepride.org/">https://northshorepride.org/</a>
Saturday June 25	Noon	Trans Resistance's 3rd Annual Trans Resistance March & Vigil for Black Trans Lives	Franklin Park (Boston)	<a href="https://www.transresistancema.com/trans-resistance-2022">https://www.transresistancema.com/trans-resistance-2022</a>
Sunday June 26th	12-4pm	Franklin Pride	Franklin Town Commons	<a href="https://www.franklinmatters.org/2022/05/celebrate-with-pride-june-26-2022.html">https://www.franklinmatters.org/2022/05/celebrate-with-pride-june-26-2022.html</a>
Wed. June 29th	7-8pm	LGBTQ+ SciFi & Fantasy Recommendation Panel	Crowdcast (on-line)	<a href="https://www.portersquarebooks.com/event/lgbtq-sci-fi-and-fantasy-recommendation-panel">https://www.portersquarebooks.com/event/lgbtq-sci-fi-and-fantasy-recommendation-panel</a>

**10. Public Comments / Announcements**

The **Transgender Emergency Fund of Massachusetts**, a non-profit organization that provides resources and support for low-income and homeless transgender individuals throughout Massachusetts is starting a new Transitional Housing Program which will provide 5-8 homeless transgender individuals with temporary, full-time housing for a year. In order to provide them with the greatest amount of support, care, and resources as possible, they are hiring new positions to work with the Executive Director and Case Manager to oversee the program:

- Part Time Housing Director
- Part Time Social Worker
- Part Time House Associate (Awake Overnight)

You can find more information about the positions at: [transemergencyfund.org/jobs](https://transemergencyfund.org/jobs).

They “would ideally love to hire someone who has worked with the trans and nonbinary community in some capacity and has experience working with people experiencing homelessness or housing instability.”

**CPL PRIDE Event:** Wed. June 1st, 6-7pm: Malinda Lo: **INSIDE THE TELEGRAPH CLUB** – Cambridge Public Library (Main)

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/cpl/calendarofevents/view.aspx?guid=%7b1FE759C6-0CB6-445D-9514-72DAFA9ECD25%7d>

**11. Next Commission Meeting:** Thursday, July 23rd, 6-7:30pm, over Zoom. A representative from the Longfellow House National Historic Site will come to speak to us about partnering with us on LGBTQ+ history.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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