

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission Minutes 22-Sept-2022

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

COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	STAFF	Pre-sent?
Badriyyah Alsabah		Lesley Phillips	X	Jennifer Mathews	
Bill Barnert	X	Linden Huhmann	X	Amelia Joselow	
Bob Bordone		Noelani Kamelamela	X		
Cameron Van Fossen		Olivia Sevey		GUESTS	
Frank Arce	X	Warner Santiago	X		
Gregory MacDonough	X				
Kat Long	X				
Kate Grams					
Lauryn McNair					

AGENDA: 22-Sept-2022

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Frank Arce

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Frank Arce

Minutes taken by: Bill Barnert

1. **Welcome**
2. **Assign Minute Taker**
3. **Approve / Modify Agenda**
4. **Approve Previous Minutes** (modified [June](#) & [July](#)) [Approved]
5. **Introductions**

Announcement: Soltan Bryce has stepped down as a Commissioner

6. **Project Updates** (current actions, and plans) including reports from Jennifer & Amelia
 - o Jennifer: Candidate that we offered the LGBTQ+ Programming turned it down, so we're still looking. If you know of a good candidate, let Jennifer know
 - o New City Manager Yi-An Huang has started & Jennifer has started working with him. :

- We have an opportunity to create a training on Housing Rights for gender identity & sexual orientation. There is a HUD grant. We may work with other commissions. Time frame: Spring 2023.
- Any way we can partner & support the Police Dept. & LGBTQ+ recruitment they will appreciate.
- National Coming Out Day: Oct. 11 - We will do a call to residents to submit a coming out narrative and/or photos to compile into a presentation to try to publish on web by end of month. Commissioners are encouraged to participate.
- Amelia: TOWN HALL We need to take a bureaucratic step before we announce it on our website.
- Town Hall categories: Youth; Adults & Familie;, Seniors; Community/Resilience, Health (mental health, disability, etc.)
- Commissioners who attend may be asked to facilitate sub-group discussions.
- The Town Hall will be in-person. We may do a virtual one later.
- Story Map on Senior Housing to be distributed to service providers of senior housing in Cambridge. Meetings will be called so they can hear from each other, too.

7. Working Group Reports

- All-Gender Bathrooms - Does the Working Group wish to reconvene to discuss a possible home-rule petition to allow Cambridge to specify that single-person restrooms must be all-gender.
- Budget
- City Forms
- Communications
 - We have received new bracelets
 - We have many small flags to display & will accept more
 - Review of website content, links, and recommendations for edits. We will be adding a Local Links & Resources page. \
 - Have some new buttons to make.
- Community Center
- Diversity
- Events
 - ***A Night of Queer Comedy, Music, & Dance - Together Under the Stars*** at Starlight Square was an absolute success! View the concert at our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcpTWHe23yVJGYRYG7qvIBw>
 - **National Coming Out Day** - Ideas and Potential Events/Activities
- Handbook
 - Frank, Bill, & Kat have been reviewing the handbook & will meet Oct. 11th to continue/finish
- Housing
 - Did not meet this month due to illness.. She will invite him to WG meeting.
 - Jennifer will meet with the Inspectional Services Dept. to discuss the questions we submitted.

- There is room for more people who want to join the WG.
- Possible Town Hall “down the road.”
- Kat Long asked to join.
- Public Health & Safety
- Pride Brunch
- Recruitment
 - Formation of Working Group - Need 3 members for the WG
 - No immediate action, because there is a commissioner-appointment freeze, but we want to be ready, and start looking for people. Strategic Planning
 - Frank Arce & Noe Kamelamela asked to join.
- Strategic Planning
- Youth
 - Working group meeting to resume engagement with local GSA’s
 - P-10 (CRLS GSA) doesn’t meet until mid-October, so we will wake up in November.

8. Old Business

- **Handbook update**
- **Tabling events:**
 - i. **Queer Arts in the Park** (Longfellow House), Sunday, Oct. 1, 12-4
 - ii. **Oktoberfest**, Sunday, Oct. 9, 11-6
 - iii. Reminder: The **LGBTQ+ Town Hall Discussion** will be Wed. October 12, 5:30-7:30pm. Make your voice heard with the City of Cambridge about LGBTQ+ inclusion!

9. New Business

- Meeting with City Manager - Yi-An Huang Oct. 20th, 1pm
- Healthy Children Task Force meeting update- RE: Event for youth and families
- Caregivers of CPS LGBTQ+ students meeting with Supt. of Schools Dr. Victoria Greer Update
- November and December Meeting Dates:
Usually, we meet on the 3rd Thursday of November (to avoid Thanksgiving), and skip December. Last year, we split the difference & met on the 2nd Thursday in December. Do we want to do that again this year, or stick to Nov. 17?
- **We voted to meet this year on the 2nd Thursday in December (Dec. 8th).**
There was much discussion about what to make permanent. If we make it the 2nd Thursday, it could be as late as the 13th or 14th, which is getting into the busy season. Three other options mentioned: Revert to the 3rd Thursday in November; the 1st Thursday in December; or “a Thursday in December between x & y” (eg: between the 4th & the 10th). To be decided in early 2023.

10. Report from Rainbows Across Communities

- A *PRISM Support Group* for patients will launch in September 21st at 5:30pm (and will convene via Zoom on the third Wednesday of every month thereafter).
PRISM is a drop-in support group for LGBTQ+ identifying individuals followed for a cancer diagnosis at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and/or other area hospitals.

- We learned about a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant we could apply for.
 - i. It has to be used for something cultural/artistic, so we're not sure if it could be used for Jennifer Finney Boylan (although she is an author, and this is cultural, so maybe?)
 - ii. The Boston Gay Men's Chorus was mentioned (Leslie will call)
 - iii. Bill told us about some previous "Rainbow Room" events with trans performers at the Cambridge YWCA. Perhaps something like that?
 - iv. We probably want one of our groups, preferably a 401(c)3 to be the official grant applier & money holder.
- **NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY** is Tuesday, Oct. 11th. Ideas were discussed.
- The Arlington LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission is hosting a picnic on Saturday Oct. 1st, and we are invited. (Although it conflicts with the Longfellow House event.)

11. Public Comments / Announcements

12. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, October 27, 6:00-7:30 over Zoom