

## Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Minutes February 24, 2022

Commission Attendance: Bill Barnert, John Gintell, Noelani Kamelamela, Olivia Sevey, Amelia Joselow (LGBTQ+ Research Associate), Bob Bordone, Badriyyah Alsabah, Greg McDonough, Jennifer Mathews (Executive Director), Kat Long, Lauryn McNair, Linden Huhmann, Warner Santiago, Rachel Oppenheimer, Lesley Phillips

Guest: Jack Reid, MIT Graduate Student Council

Commissioners absent: Cameron Van Fossen, Kate Grams, Nefyn Meissner, Noelani Gabriel Holt, Soltan Bryce, Frank Arce

- Welcome
- Minute Taker-Noelani Kamelamela
- Approve / Modify Agenda
- Introductions of New Commissioners (Olivia Sevey, Badriyyah Alsabah, & Kat Long. Frank Arce was absent.)
- Approved Amended Minutes from January
- Election of co-chairs: Bill Barnert, Noelani Gabriel Holt
  - Vote passed, Bill Barnert and Noelani Gabriel Holt are now Co-Chairs
- Open Meeting Law review (John Gintell): Agendas need to be public, Decisions must happen in a predetermined public forum, We cannot discuss commission business over our closed email, Working Groups can discuss official business in private. There are other important pieces of the Open Meeting Law, but it is available for people to peruse and ensure that we follow these rules.
- ED Report & Review of Projects (Jennifer Mathews)
  - **LGBTQ+ Community Center**: Meeting with City Manager went well. Looking for spaces and a part-time staff person: still looking at budget items and timing to opening. Follow-up meeting in two weeks with leaders of Youth Centers and Senior Centers in addition to the City Manager to produce a work plan and dates. The city is recruiting a new City Manager, and we may need to wait to deal with them to fully get off the ground
  - **All-gender bathrooms**: three will be finished in City Hall shortly. Amelia has mapped out way-finding for all-gender bathrooms.
  - **Surveys, Reports & Others**: moving along and looking good, other groups are willing to signal boost the effort. Final Proof is being worked on.
- **Working Group Reports & Discussion**
  - **Communications Working Group** (Bill Barnert): website, newsletter, any type of swag or pieces of information which we hand out at events. Bill will call a meeting soon.
  - **Youth Working Group** (Bill Barnert): current project to meet with GSAs in the City to help decide on future projects. Bill will call a meeting soon.
  - **Community Center Working Group** (Amelia Joselow): working on getting the LGBTQ+ Community Center running
  - **Diversity Working Group** (Rachel Oppenheimer): working on a DEI survey for the Commission, also looking at different trainings for the Commission
  - **All-Gender Bathrooms Working Group**

- **Budget Working Group**-inactive-related to how much money we have left and how we access money for certain purchases
- **Events Working Group**: works on events such as talks, movies, meeting
- **Handbook Working Group**-ad hoc related to institutional memory. The Handbook does say that “This manual should be reviewed annually by the Commission, either as a whole or by a designated Working Group”, so this group should meet soon.
- **City Forms Working Group**: works with the City to update City Forms related to gender and sexuality
- **Public Health and Safety Working Group**: works with Police Liaison and Commission. We publicize when the Liaison appears at a public meeting so that
- **Pride Brunch Working Group**-ad hoc for Pride when Pride happens
- **Recruitment Working Group**-ad hoc when new Commissioners need to be recruited
- **Strategic Planning Working Group**-inactive-review activities, status, goal setting to ensure that we are working efficiently

Working Groups can be created as necessary, and Working Groups can also become inactive if the goal of the Working Group has been achieved

- **Report from Rainbows Across Communities** group (Municipal & other groups from different Cities)
  - We may coordinate Pride, Trans Day of Visibility, & Starlight Square with other towns.
  - Jennifer Finney Boylan: Leslie proposed that we each chip in & hire Jennifer Finney Boylan to do a Zoom event with us? Leslie will contact her to find out if this is possible & how much she would charge. [ NOTE: As of 2/24/22, we had not heard back. ]
  - REQUEST FROM LEXINGTON: To help LexPride lobby for painting crosswalks in Lexington, Valerie has asked for each of us to send specifications for what kind of paint we have used.
  - **Calvin**: Not part of Trans Day of Visibility, but related: As part of Jazz & Friends National Reading Day, LexPride will be hosting a reading of “Calvin” with authors (J.R. and Vanessa Ford) & a short discussion. Virtual. Thurs. Feb. 24th, 2-2:30pm. Spread the word! (Register at <https://www.lexpridema.org/events/2022/2/8/meet-jr-and-vanessa-ford-authors-ofnbspcalvin>)
  - **Neurodiversity\* & the LGBTQ+ Community**: Arlington is looking into doing something for Autism Acceptance Month (April) on Neurodiversity & the LGBTQ+ Community. (A disproportionate % of the Neurodiverse community is LGBTQ+.) They will be discussing this further at the March meeting. \* "The word neurodiversity refers to the diversity of all people, but it is often used in the context of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as other neurological or developmental conditions such as ADHD or learning disabilities." - Harvard Health
  - **Listening to Asian Voices**: LexPride will be hosting an event in April on Asian Aging in the LGBTQ+ community. Date TBD.COORDINATION NOTE: Arlington & Lexington will coordinate so their two April events do not happen at the same time.
  - **NEXT RAINBOWS ACROSS COMMUNITIES MEETING**: Wed, March 9th, 5-5:55pm (And all 2nd Wednesdays going forward.)
  
- **Starlight Square**

- Do we want to do this again this year? (Note: The application process is open until Sunday, March 27th, so we have plenty of time to decide & apply.) We decided to at least pursue this. Bill will submit an application.
- **March 31 Trans Day of Visibility** funding for creating posters for local schools: voted on and passed.
  - Belmont will be creating a banner of 6 trans/gender non-binary folks to post at their schools. Cambridge is hoping to do the same. Bill sent out a request for nominations, and received only one. Perhaps we'll come up with our own additional names, or "steal" some of Belmont's names.
  - Belmont Library has several events planned, including a Virtual "Trans: Who We Are" panel (on Zoom) at 7:30 PM on March 31st, that we can all publicize to Zoom into. (When Leslie sends us the Zoom link.)
- **Pride Day 2022**-do we want a parade? Or a brunch? We need to create a **Pride Working Group** to work on creating something. Boston Pride no longer exists. This should be added to the March agenda in the hopes of getting volunteers into this Working Group.
  - Apparently Boston will be doing SOMETHING for Pride, but we're not quite sure what.
  - The idea of a Car Parade that spans communities was discussed at the Rainbows Across Communities meeting. Police presence may be an issue. Lexington has done this in the past, with unmarked cars with non-uniformed officers at start & end of parade. And it could end with a picnic!
  - Cambridge usually hosts a Pride Brunch at City Hall - no word yet if this will happen this year.
  - Lexington is planning an "Our Heroes & Impacts" event: Stories of people who have done great things in the LGBTQ+ community. Probably in late June. They also usually do a Pride Story Time, Pride Crafts, & other small activities. .
  - Some ideas from the Rainbows Across Communities meeting that every town might consider, and probably need to start planning soon:
    - Official Council Resolution
    - Painting rainbow crosswalks
    - Flying Pride Flags &/or Banners
- **Multi-user all-gender bathrooms & state plumbing code** (Jack Reid): regarding multi-user all-gender bathrooms and the state plumbing code, the MIT Graduate Student Council submitted a code change to a the Division of Professional Licensure board on April 15, 2021. Jennifer Mathews (ED) willing to take point on this. Commission votes to support the MIT Graduate Student Council.
- **Public Comments / Announcements**
  - No Public Comments
  - Announcements:
    - A group of LGBTQ+ social groups will host meetups on the second Mondays of April, May and June at Time Out Market next to the Regal Fenway Cinema. Details at [TimeOut.Gay.Boston](https://www.timeout.com/boston/gay).
    - Co-ops: how do we deal with legality of unrelated adults living together? Our ED knows a Zoning person willing to come to the Commission and talk about this— there is a hope to setup a meeting possibly with just Linden & the Zoning person.
- **Next LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting:**
  - Thursday, March 24th, 6-7:30 (Zoom)