



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, September 10, 2015**

Present: ED Schlacter, Commissioners Bonita Cox, Nadia Davila, Zainab Lakhani, Mercedes Evans, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Sabrina Selk, Harry Reyes, Nicholas Leydon, and CHRC staff Crystal Rosa.

Absent: Commissioner Chair Chanta Bhan, Commissioners Kim Nghiem and Kerry Gough, and CHRC staff Sabrina Acloque.

Documents Used:

- June Minutes
- July Minutes
- List of Fair Housing Contest Themes
- Email correspondence between Commissioner Reyes and ED Schlacter with attached examples of Fair Housing infographs
- Email correspondence between Public Library Director and ED Schlacter, regarding Fair Housing Art Making events

1. Call to order

Vice-Chair Harry Reyes called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Review and Approval of June Minutes

Vice-Chair Harry Reyes clarified a question regarding the June minutes, Commissioner Cox confirmed volunteering to draft a letter articulating the Commission's support for the lead abatement bill. Commissioner Cox moved to approve the June minutes; seconded by Commissioner Davila. Unanimous vote reached of Commissioners in attendance at June meeting.

4. Review and Approval of July Minutes

Vice-Chair Harry Reyes clarified that only the language in the Domestic Violence bill was being redrafted, not the Fair Housing bill. Commissioner Gonzalez-Brenes moved to approve the July minutes and it was seconded by Commissioner Selk. Unanimous vote reached of Commissioners in attendance at July meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

ED Schlacter updated the Commission on cases and staff activities. ED Schlacter updated the Commission on staff collaborations with the BOFHE/BFHC and AAGO Kerry Tipper. ED Schlacter also met with GLBT Commission regarding its Research Project regarding LGBTQ senior housing. ED Schlacter discussed the 2016 Fair Housing art making events with the Director of Cambridge Public Library Director and the head librarian of the Main Library. ED Schlacter and AI Acloque attended a quarterly Brown Bag meeting regarding Fair Housing issues at Suffolk University Law School. ED Schlacter and AI Acloque co-presented with Community Development Department/Housing Division at Russell /WCYCC to Girls Taking Action group from Mayor Youth Summer Employment Program. ED Schlacter informed the commission of the various training conferences she attended during the summer. ED Schlacter and AI Acloque attended a training led by

Kate Thurman, from Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, regarding Service Dog Rules & Rights. ED Schlacter introduced new hire, Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa, to the Commission.

6. July meeting follow-up:

- **Fair Housing Bills (3) Pending in Legislature – all still alive in the committee, nothing new to report**
Commissioner Reyes contacted Katie King and Kaitlyn Passafaro in the Mayor's office at Boston City Hall regarding the status of the Fair Housing and Domestic Violence bills. Ms. Passafaro informed Commissioner Reyes that the language in the Domestic Violence bill is currently being redrafted so it is best for the Commission to wait before sending a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing its support for these bills. According to Ms. Passafaro, the Commission may, however, send a letter stating its support to the state Senate Judiciary Committee. Commissioners Reyes and Nghiem stated they would meet to draft a letter and later communicate with ED Schlacter and Commission staff regarding next steps to post the letter to the Commission's web page.
- **Outreach to Peter Sommer at Cambridge Friends School about Commission's Fair Housing Event**
ED Schlacter contacted Peter Sommer who was away until July 13, 2015. Multiple attempts to contact Mr. Sommer have been made, with no response.
- **Outreach to Cambridge Youth Centers Director about Commission's Fair Housing Event**
ED Schlacter contacted Mercedes Soto who was away in June. ED Schlacter will meet with Ms. Soto upon her return to discuss involving the Youth Centers in the Fair Housing contest. During the meeting with ED Schlacter, Ms. Soto expressed interest for CHRC outreach and participating in the art making event, to include a presentation by the Commission. Commissioner Davila suggested that the outreach events be organized by neighborhood for ease of travel for youths. Vice-Chair Reyes suggested preparing multiple supply packages of outreach material for each youth center to supplement the event. Commissioner Davila offered to liaise between the Youth Center directors.
- **Discussion Regarding Alice LoCicero's Marathon Bombings Memorial Event Proposal**
Proposal is still sitting. The Commission decided there was not enough information to vote and no action was taken during this meeting.
- **The Phoenix Landing, a bar located in Cambridge, played offensive music**
According to Commissioner Gough offensive music against LGBT individuals was played on a recent reggae night. Commissioner Gough would like to discuss possible ways to take action against the business or voice discontent. She stated that this could potentially be an issue addressed by the GLBT Commission. Discussion on the matter was put on hold, due to Commissioner Gough's leave of absence.

7. New Business

- There are 3 dates available to hold the Public Library Fair Housing poster making event. November 7, 2015, November 14, 2015, and December 5, 2015. The Library will assist with promotion and graphic visuals for the event. The Commission will conduct a 10 -15 minute presentation with 1hr 45 minutes of art making to follow. ED Schlacter will finalize the time frame. Commissioners Reyes, Cox and Lakhani will participate in the event on November 7, 2015. Commissioners Selk, Davila, and Leydon will participate in the event on November 14, 2015.
- Vice-Chair Reyes prompted the Commission to consider how public transit effects public health and whether it is an issue of equity.

8. Outreach Subcommittee

- **Rethinking Fair Housing event – outreach to schools and youth centers/review outreach materials for event**

Vice-Chair Reyes presented various theme choices for the Fair Housing event. Commissioner Davila proposed “Fair Housing Matters” as a theme and there was a unanimous agreement among the Commission. Commissioners Leydon and Reyes will work on updating outreach material and present their revised designs to the Commission on a later date.

- Commissioners Cox and Evans will participate in the 20th Annual Danehy Park Family Day, on September 19, 2015 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. ED Schlacter will confirm CHRC Commission participation with the City Manager’s Office. ED Schlacter will email absentee Commissioners to gauge their interest in outreach participation.

9. Reminders

- Sign up for AG Open Meeting Training via link on email attachment.
- Mediation Training on October 24, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at CDSC.

10. Matters Reserved for the October Commission Meeting

- The Commissioners inquired if Chris Cotter, Housing Director of the Community Development Department, could follow with updated information regarding affordable and market rate housing development in Cambridge. The Commissioners had several questions about the different qualifications for City housing programs. ED Schlacter will reach out to Mr. Cotter to invite him back to CHRC to clarify any misinformation about how the programs work.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Vice-Chair Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Leydon.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.