

**November 19, 2015 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the November 19 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the October 22 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: Jessica Daniels, Mal Malme, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Bill Barnert, Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee, Bob Parlin, John Gintell, Maya Escobar, Anna Weick

Commissioners Absent: (excused) – Kristina Mastropasqua, Lesley Phillips

Guests: Elysia Chandler (Commission intern)

I. Hispanic Black Gay Coalition Gala

- a. Bob attended the gala last night.
- b. He thought the event was wonderful, with many great speeches.
- c. He was hoping to recruit possible Commissioners but was unable to connect with any people who live or work in Cambridge.

II. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)

- a. Boston's event is on Sunday, November 22 at 4:00pm.
- b. It will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral across from the Park Street T stop in Boston Common.
- c. The event originated in Boston and is now a national event.
- d. It memorializes individuals who have died throughout the world in the previous year because of anti-transgender hatred.

III. Commission Banner

- a. Our banner has gone missing.
- b. We tried to retrace who had the banner last and will contact people, including some ex-commissioners, to track it down.
- c. If replacement is needed, we will defer the purchased in case we decide to change the Commission name.

IV. Library Sign plus Gender Neutral Bathroom Project

- a. The library would like our input about language for a gender neutral bathroom sign.
- b. Their proposed language is:
 - i. "The City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Public Library support gender diversity.
 - ii. All are welcome to use the restroom that best fits their identity.
 - iii. A gender neutral restroom is located in the Library Administration Office Area."
- c. Jessica suggested adding specifics as to where the gender neutral bathroom can be found.
- d. We discuss the possibility of adding "and/or expression" to their second sentence.
- e. Rachel suggested adding an eye-catching, informational symbol.

- f. Maya will bring these ideas back to the library to aid in their decision.
- g. The Commission expresses thanks to the library for being so thoughtful.

V. Strategic Planning Committee - report

- a. This subcommittee of John, Jessica, and Steven (Lesley was absent) met on November 2.
- b. Here are some main points and questions that came out of their meeting:
- c. Little has been done on the City of Cambridge's gender neutral bathroom ordinance since it was passed. How can we get more done on this?
- d. Does it make sense to continue participating in all of the outreach events that we have been attending? Are there additional events to which we should attend?
- e. What next steps should we take with the Healthcare Report?
- f. Is there something we can do to further our relationship or better make use of our current relationship with the police department?
- g. Consider reaching out to former Commissioner Neil MacInnes-Barker who is the City's new Director of Veterans' Services.
- h. Should we rename/rebrand the Commission's name to encompass more of the current environment and community?

VI. Strategic Planning Committee – discussion

- a. Aren asked that we bring up the name-change discussion at our January meeting and set a timeline.
- b. Mal suggested that brainstorming for a name-change occurs between meetings among a subcommittee.
- c. Gender Neutral Bathrooms
 - i. John had a productive meeting with Taha Jennings, Assistant to the City Manager.
 - ii. Taha has been building a catalog of all City buildings and their bathroom setups.
 - iii. They talked about getting a gender neutral bathroom in City Hall to serve as an important symbol to the rest of the City.
 - iv. There should be a brochure prepared to reach out to local commercial establishments.
 - v. They need to meet with the heads of various departments to get people on board with the project.
 - vi. Anna noted that there is a phone app that establishments can be listed on for having gender neutral bathrooms.
 - vii. Steven thought it would be great if there were a symbol that establishments could put in their storefronts to indicate they have gender neutral bathrooms.

VII. Diversity/Recruitment Committee

- a. With seven vacancies, we need a short-term committee to help with recruiting new Commissioners and a long-term committee to focus on diversity.
- b. The Commission approved a motion to create a Recruitment Committee now and to start up a Diversity Committee in 2016.
- c. There needs to be an official announcement on the City's website stating we are looking for Commissioners.
 - i. It would be valuable to get articles posted in various local news sources.
- d. Steven will lead this Recruitment Committee.
 - i. Rachel, Anna, Mal and Aren volunteered to join the committee.

VIII. **Communications Committee**

- a. Bill will call a meeting and get things going.
- b. Steven and Bill recently consolidated all of the email addresses the Commission has collected onto a spreadsheet.
- c. We are down to only a few Commission brochures remaining.
 - i. Prior to printing more brochures, we need to revise and update them or possibly change the format altogether.

IX. **Future Events**

- a. LGBTQ Authors Event
 - i. The planning for this is still in the beginning stages.
 - ii. Bill is taking the lead.
- b. Cambridge Community Engagement Team Event
 - i. Thursday, December 17, 9:00am-12:00pm at Cambridge College.
 - ii. Aren and John will be speaking.
 - iii. The title of the event is “Engaging Families: Learning From and Welcoming LGBTQ People”.
 - iv. John Weber will also be speaking.
 - v. Any Commissioners are welcome to attend and must register with the invite that was sent to the Commission.
- c. Transgender Event
 - i. We need to be thinking about what we would like to do with this event in the spring.

X. **Seniors Healthcare and Housing Projects Updates**

- a. Elysia shared updates with the Commission.
- b. She submitted a proposal for the healthcare report to be a part of the LGBT Elders in an Ever-Changing World 4th Annual Conference at Salem State University on March 20.
 - i. In January, she will find out whether the proposal has been accepted.
- c. Elysia and the co-chairs have had meetings with a number of participating and non-participating organizations to discuss the implications of the healthcare report.
- d. Elysia met with the Director of Operations of the Cambridge Housing Authority to gather some base information about their policies and practices in regards to LGBT inclusivity.
 - i. The next step is to develop a survey for Cambridge housing facilities.

XI. **Announcements**

- a. Bill is organizing an event for the Cambridge Men's Group. The event is a fundraiser/"friendraiser" for the LGBT Asylum Support Task Force.
 - i. The event will be January 10 from 7:30-10:00pm at Lir in Boston.
- b. Mal is putting on a show called “The Pineapple Project” at the Children’s Museum on December 6 from 1:30-2:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm