

July 27, 2017 LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Kimm Topping, Jessica Daniels, John Gintell, Kate Grams, Bill Barnert, Greg MacDonough, Aren Stone, Rachel Openheimer, Susan Bernstein, Noe Kamelamela, Steven Lee, Lesley Phillips, Maya Escobar
Absent: Mal Malme, Linda Daniels, Anna Weick On Leave: Devontae Freeland, Abby Duker

Police Report: Detective Brian O'Connor

New Police Commissioner, Branville Bard, has start date August 21. He will try to attend a future LGBTQ+ meeting. When the new Commissioner was interviewed by the public he was asked what he knew about supporting the LGBTQ+ community. he relied that he had little experience and was looking forward to learning. Brian will be meeting with him.

Stats for the year: There were two reported hate crimes with an LGBTQ+ focus. One domestic violence incident (June), one assault (May). The domestic violence incident has a court date; the assault is under investigation.

SOGI Update

The city's training for all employees in Sexual Orientation and Gender (SOGI) rolls out 8/31, concludes 12/14. There will be 60 three hour sessions led by trainers from the Fenway Institute.

Future Event Participation

October 8 -- Oktoberfest. Jessica is spearheading this; no application up on the website at time of meeting.

November 9 -- LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers and Immigrants Event. Greg reported that the last meeting of committee talked about the format for this event. Film trailers, with possible movie at a later event. One film is from Cameroon, one from Uganda. Working on a name for the event. Looking for an LGBTQ+ Muslim immigrant and a Transgender immigrant speaker for the panel; asylees already on panel.

Youth on Fire Budget/Closing

Won't know more about budget until September.

Donor has pledged large amount to AIDS Action as matching fund.

John and Aren arranging meeting with City Manager.

Other actions: contact state representatives and the governor.

LGBT Youth After School Activities -- Policies and Practices Project

Elysia's now working 25 hours a week, has been able to contact a lot of programs.

The next step is to talk directly with youth in focus groups. Parental permission is a sticky point. Kimm connected Elysia with a group to help out with this.

Status/Discussion/Committee Reports

Budget

Didn't spend all of our 2016-2017 budget. \$1000 worth of swag forthcoming (from this year's budget). Contact Steven sooner rather than later with additional budget requests.

Communications

Committee will look into reviewing Google docs and letting rest of the Commission know what is there. New email list with Constant Contact. Need to plan fall meeting of

Communications Committee. Improvements to website and frequency of emails. John and Bill have been trained on new City website and will post new minutes.

National News

-President's tweet about trans soldiers in the military.

-Justice Department filed a brief in New York saying that civil rights act does not cover LGBTQ+ people.

Neither of these are policies yet.

Lesley proposed a motion to pass some sort of resolution/draft a statement with the City Council condemning this. Discussion about what the Commission would want the Council to say regarding Cambridge—support for our veterans and for our Transgender residents. Outreach to veterans also suggested, especially since we have a former commissioner, Neil MacInnes-Barker, director of Cambridge Veterans Services, as a resource. Aren will be in touch with Neil.

Lesley, Kimm, and Kate volunteered to write a statement.

Other actions: ask Neil Alpert to put this on the City Council's agenda for August 7 meeting.

Announcements

-Somerville Ward 6 Annual Midsummer Festival August 3. State Representative Connolly will give a keynote.

-Marnie Murray is stepping down as Program & Events Coordinator for the Cambridge Public Library. She will be filling in part-time through September until her position can be filled.

-Proposal to shift next meeting for High Holidays. Voted to keep at same date since the meeting is in between the holiday dates themselves.