

## **LGBTQ+ Commission Minutes   April 27, 2017   6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Attending: Susan Bernstein, Aren Stone, Maya Escobar, Jessica Daniels, John Gintell, Silas Weiner, Greg MacDonough, Steven Lee, Bob Parlin, Devontae Freeland, Anna Weick, Linda Daniels, Kate Grams, Lesley Phillips

Absent: Kimm Topping, Rachel Oppenheimer, Noe Kamelamela, Bill Barnert, Abby Duker, Mal Malme

Guest: Elysia Chandler, LGBTQ+ Commission Researcher

Approved Agenda      Approved Minutes from March Meeting

### **Police Report**

Commission Liaison Detective Brian O'Connor was unable to attend and sent a note that he is working with the Police IT department to create an email address specifically for the LGBTQ+ community and Police Department correspondence. Once it is operational he'll work to publicize it through the Police Department's website and social media. Commissioners' comments:

- We would like a clear explanation of who answers the emails, how LGBTQ+ community members will be assured that this is a safe way to communicate with the Police and how it might be different communicating through this email address rather than another more general address. We think that more people would be willing to use it if these things were clear.
- This seems like a welcome step and we can publicize it on our social media and web page with the above explanations, with information about how we have worked with and received support from the Police Department.

### **Past Event Participation**

- Ethos Fair - March 28 – John Gintell and Elysia Chandler attended this service fair for seniors. Ethos is a Boston organization serving seniors with a strong LGBT program. Elysia demonstrated our Story Map.
- Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Fair --April 12 – – John participated with a table to highlight our work.
- Come Out of the Margins Cambridge Town Hall Meeting --April 13—From the draft minutes of the event: “Mayor E. Denise Simmons and the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission co-sponsored a Cambridge Town Hall Meeting on April 13, 2017. The call to citizens was “Come Out of the Margins” and be heard by your city leaders. Gathered were the City Manager, Louis DePasquale and many of his department heads from across the city. In excess of 100 residents attended.” Many Commissioners were in attendance. John spoke briefly about the Commission's work and attendees broke into 6 different groups to discuss concerns about current issues in the country, how they have an impact on Cambridge, and how Cambridge has and can continue to support residents. Several Commissioners were note-takers for the groups. In general residents were pleased about how many services and supports

Cambridge provides but many people felt that they weren't always well enough informed about these services.

### **Future Event Participation**

- MayFair May 7 Rain Date May 21 Harvard Square We will table. Jessica has arranged with DPW for our table and has scheduled us in pairs from noon to 6. Jessica noted that last year there was heavy rain on that day and the event was not postponed. We decided not to table. She suggested that the Commissioners tabling this year make sure to communicate in the case of rain.
- Youth Pride May 20 Government Center We will table. Bob has made the arrangements and is coordinating. Commissioners can contact him to participate.
- River Festival – June 3 Kendall Square We will table. Jessica is arranging and will ask Commissioners for volunteers closer to that date.
- Event with the Library Maya has spoken with the event coordinator at the Library, who would like to collaborate with us on future events. We will discuss this more fully at a future meeting.

### **Cambridge Pride Brunch**

- Every year the Commission co-sponsors this with the Mayor. We spent a long time discussing who we would like to give Community Recognition Awards to this year and decided on three community members and/or groups that have helped to support LGBTQ+ people in Cambridge. Once we have notified the prospective awardees and they have accepted we'll publicize the list of awardees.
- John and Aren are scheduled to speak about the work of the Commission and Bill is scheduled to MC. Aren would like to give her speaking spot to a newer Commissioner to speak about their experiences. Commissioners can contact her if they would like to speak.

### **LGBT Youth Organizations Policies and Practices Project**

- Elysia Chandler, the Commission's Researcher, gave an update on this project. She has continued to meet with organizations, including the Dept. of Human Services Afterschool Programs, to explain the project. Many have participated in the survey. Kimm, Aren, and John have continued to be the support team for this project, as well as the ongoing Seniors projects, along with Taha Jennings, aide to the City Manager, and Nancy Schlacter, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission.
- As of July 1<sup>st</sup> Elysia will receive an increase in hours (and benefits). This is recognition from the City Manager of the excellent work that she has done on our projects.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting 6:00-7:00 + Training 7:00-8:00