

## **LGBTQ+ COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES | APRIL 26, 2018**

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners Present:

Mal Malme, John Gintell, Aren Stone, Silas Weiner, Susan Bernstein, Devontae Freeland, Jessica Daniels, Bill Barnert, Rachel Oppenheimer, Lesley Phillips, Bob Parlin, Steven Lee, Kimm Topping.

#### Absent:

Abby Duker, Linda Daniels, Noe Kamelamela, Kate Grams, Greg MacDonough, Maya Escobar.  
Anna Weick (on leave)

#### Public:

Kate Flaherty, Laurie Young, Ted Waechter, Amelia Joselow (Commission Research Associate)

### MEETING ACTION ITEMS:

#### **1) Last month's meeting minutes are approved**

#### **2) Swag items ordered and being delivered**

#### **3) Diversity Dialogues feedback**

- No judging or lecturing; very instructive and impressive.
- Very valuable exercise; should encourage other Commissions to do a similar thing
- Mal wondering what are next steps and continue the work; help with change in the community and what that would look like
- The Diversity Subcommittee will meet to discuss our next steps

#### **4) Events:**

- YWCA speak out against racism event happened last week; we were asked to co-host but we don't have mechanism to make decisions as a whole Commission between meetings since we're not allowed to discuss and make decisions by email. Perhaps we need to find a mechanism to allow us to make decisions faster.
- We are cosponsoring AC Dumlao reading on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the library.
- We were asked to cosponsor another event at the library; a June 12 a Pride panel discussion on LGBTQ+ issues in the post Trump presidency. Mason Dunn from MTPC, a Transgender student from Tufts, Silas and Kimm are panelists. We decided to co-sponsor event.
- Drag Storytime event this weekend we didn't have a logo in terms of marketing. We need a Commissioner to lead for every event we cosponsor going forward.
- The Theater Offensive will host the Pride Youth Theater Alliance Conference in Boston in July. The conference invites young practitioners, artists and leaders to showcase their art, talents, skill and knowledge with their peers from across North America. They asked us to co-sponsor. Approved for us to co-sponsor this event.

- Riverfest has received our application and is reviewing it. Jessica will contact us when she hears from them.
- Youth Pride May 19<sup>th</sup> – Bob, Abby, Susan, Kate, Rachel, Bill, and maybe Kimm are set to table.
- Pride Brunch – The planning subcommittee is Aren, Susan, John, and Kate. Award nominations – Rachel has received no nominations yet. Needs nominations in by May 21<sup>st</sup> in time for our next meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- We need buttons made for tabling. Bill and Bob will make some for Mayfair. Suggestion to do a “my pronouns are” button.

#### **5) Coffee with the Police report:**

- Aren, Jessica, Mal, Laurie, Susan, Amelia were in attendance. The last 30 minutes were most active. Rev. Irene Monroe attended and asked pointed questions in story framing format, which was beneficial to the conversation. This event happened the morning after the Harvard student arrest incident and a Harvard student joined the conversation when she heard what we were talking about. She asked Police Commissioner Bard card if he would come to talk with students and he gave her his card.
- Commissioner Bard said police are trained to not show emotion and that increased mental health awareness and care for officers is one of the initiatives that he plans on introducing soon.
- The conversations that occurred were good and meaningful.
- There was a journalism student there from BU writing an article for the Cambridge Chronicle.

#### **6) Discussion on Commission’s ongoing relationship with Police:**

Questions received:

- Should we have participated in the coffee talk?
- Should we change our relationship and work with the police? Should liaison continue?

The general consensus is that we need further discussion and thought before taking any action regarding the Commission’s ongoing relationship with the Police Department. Initial feelings are that we should continue the respectful relationship, but perhaps redefine it with more focus on intent and impact on the populations we as a Commission serve and represent. We have heard from some community members that they feel alienated from the Commission because of our relationship with the Police.

We will ask the Police not to attend next month’s meeting to allow for further discussion and to include Commissioners who weren’t at this meeting.

#### **7) Devontae announced this would be his last meeting as a Commissioner as he’ll be a senior next year and will have too much work. We all said goodbye and thank you.**