

**January 23, 2014 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the January 23 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the November 21 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Bob Parlin, Mal Malme, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Kristina Mastropasqua, Rachel Oppenheimer, John Gintell, Maggie Giles, Lesley Phillips, Neil Scannell, Paul Miller, Anna Weick, Bill Barnert

Commissioners Absent: (excused) – Steven Lee, Caitlin Drechsler, Mike McKenna, Kara Smith, Danny Venezia, Neil MacInnes-Barker

Guests: Chris Burke (Supt. of Police), Marc McGovern (City Councilor), Douglas Yu (Emerson College student), Eileen Merisola (Volunteers of America), Harry Reyes Nieva (community member and Human Rights Commissioner)

(Audio from this meeting was recorded by Douglas Yu)

I. Introductions

- a. New commissioners, Paul and Anna, were introduced and welcomed to the commission, and guests introduced themselves.

II. Police Report

- a. Chris spoke with the head of GOAL (Gay Officers Action League) New England.
- b. They are working on expanding their membership.
- c. Chris briefed the Commission on the history of the partnership between GOAL and the Cambridge Police Department

III. Meeting with City Manager and Human Rights Commission

- a. John and Steven met with Nancy Schlacter, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, and Richard Rossi, the City Manager and other city personnel, regarding the alleged homophobic treatment of a city employee.
- b. This matter is going through a grievance process.
- c. The Commission will continue to talk with city officials about instituting LGBTQ cultural competency training for city employees, and about repercussions for instances of harassment.

IV. Meeting with the Human Rights Commission

- a. Greg and Rachel attended this meeting.
- b. It was regarding issues of trans people in homeless shelters.
- c. In 2011, a census of homeless shelters was taken regarding trans issues.

- d. It didn't sound like any of the shelters had any trans-specific policies.
- e. They seemed open to implementing sensitivity training for the staff in some of their shelters.
- f. The Human Rights Commission is open to funding these trainings.
- g. The Human Rights Commission would like the GLBT Commission to continue this project.
- h. Greg will take the lead.

V. Open Meeting Law

- a. John briefed the Commission on the meeting laws that the Commission is required to follow.
- b. Councilor McGovern helped clarify a few points for us.

VI. Annual Report for 2013

- a. John and Aren collaborated on a report to communicate the Commission's accomplishments. It will be distributed to City officials and made available publicly.

VII. Planning for 2014

a. Outreach Events

- i. In 2013, the Commission was present at Youth Pride, MayFair, River Fest, Danehy Park Family Day, and Harvard Square Oktoberfest.
- ii. Bill noted that our table did not receive many visitors at the Danehy Park event. We will discuss this with the organizers when reserving our table for this year.
- iii. We would like to have items at our tables that appeal to children such as stickers, and temporary tattoos.

b. May 17: Marriage Equality – Ten year anniversary

- i. We would like to host an event in City Hall, collaborating with other organizations.
- ii. May 17 is a Saturday, so we could possibly host a Friday night into Saturday event.
- iii. Perhaps people who were married that day could renew their vows at City Hall.
- iv. A subcommittee of John, Lesley, Mal, Maggie, Gregory, Neil S., Kristina, Aren, and Bob will work on this event.

c. June 14: Pride Brunch

- i. We want to start planning for this event a little earlier than we did last time.
- ii. We will form a committee during February's meeting (a month earlier than last year).
- iii. We plan to reach out to city councilors to ask for their help using social media to solicit nominations for the Bayard Rustin Service Award and to promote the Pride Brunch.

d. Film/Panel in Library

- i. These events have required a lot of work from commissioners, but we have had great success hosting them.
- ii. Prior to tonight's meeting, Steven proposed an event focusing on trans issues.
- iii. Trans Awareness Week is in November, and that will be a good time to host a trans-focused event.
- iv. Bill proposed that we start planning this event at our June meeting.

- e. **LGBT Teachers Event**
 - i. This event will need some follow up with Kara.
- f. **April 3-12 – Boston LGBT Film Festival**
 - i. Bob will take the lead getting the Commission to sponsor a film at the festival.

VIII. Follow Ups

- a. **Youth Advisory Committee**
 - i. A GSA is being formed at the Vassal Lane Upper School.
 - ii. The other three CPS middle schools will be forming GSAs next year.
 - iii. The Commission's Youth Advisory Group will divvy up the responsibility of reaching out to the schools and letting them know we are available to support.
- b. **Youth on Fire**
 - i. It would be nice to follow up with the members of YOF to get feedback from the event we sponsored in the fall.
 - ii. We plan to keep in contact with YOF to let them know we are available to support them.
 - iii. We have a lot of good ideas, but we should decide on a few and go to them.
 - iv. Aren will put together our past suggestions of ways the Commission can support YOF and will bring them to the next meeting for planning purposes..
 - v. Neil's YOF documentary film will be shown on February 5 at the State House.
- c. **Cambridge City Employee Code of Conduct**
 - i. New city councilor, Dennis Carlone, expressed interested in revising the COC to include repercussions for those in violation.
 - ii. John will plan to follow up with Dennis and keep tabs on its progress.
 - iii. Councilor McGovern will help find a current copy of the COC for the Commission to review.
- d. **HBASIS**
 - i. (Harvard BLGTQ Allied Students in Sciences) left a message for the Commission indicating they are looking for ways to support our work. A followup meeting is being planned.
- e. **Gender Neutral Bathrooms Policy**
 - i. We would like to pursue this topic further.

IX. Communications

- a. **Website**
 - i. Several commissioners received training in modifying our page on the city's website.
 - ii. Despite the training, they have had difficulty making changes to the site.
 - iii. If we continue to have trouble with this, we may ask if we can create our own site and link to it.
- b. **Mailing List / Newsletter**
 - i. Bill is taking the lead on this.
 - ii. He's going to email the Commission asking people to complete a bio page with a picture to include on the newsletter.
 - iii. He hopes to be able to send out a quarterly newsletter.

iv. Our new Annual Report will be included.

X. Announcements

- a. Radio Boston had an interview on trans-youth today.
- b. Rainbow Times will publish an article about The Sidney Borum Health Center in the coming months.
- c. Harvard LGBTQ Conference is February 1-2. \$30 tickets for non-students. Paul will email details to the Commission.

Public Comments

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm