July 22, 2010 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

I. Call to Order

Priscilla Lee recorded these minutes.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> Colby Berger, Jeff Walker, John Gintell, Kevin Shpritzer, Lesley Phillips, Mal Malme, Priscilla Lee, Sarav Chidambaram, Steven Lee.

<u>Commissioners Absent</u>: Robert Parlin, Tony Wieczorek, Toni Snow (excused) Mallory Sorelle, Julia Pallotta, (unexcused).

Guest: Lt. Stephen Ahern, Cambridge Police Dept.

- **II. Motion to Accept Agenda**: Amended to include <u>Out and Equal Workplace Summit</u> item and then Passed.
- III. Motion to Accept Minutes from June, 2010 meeting: Amended to reflect Priscilla Lee's presence and then Passed.
- IV. June 30th Bullying Task Force Mtg report: Priscilla represented the commission. Other attendees included Melody Brazo (CPSD,) Marcia Lazar (CPHD,) Jackie Neel (DHSP,) Marlissa Briggett (CHRC,) and Kelly Downes (CPD.) The group discussed the need for a working definition of "bullying" and came up with: Bullying is a form of deliberate, repeated or severe emotional or physical abuse that has a negative impact on the target. They also talked about the need to engage all stakeholders in the community and the need to set short and long term feasible goals. Ideas put forth for community engagement included the "Town Meeting" format (used by our commission) and the possibility of using community outreach workers and parent liaisons to reach out to stakeholders who have historically been harder to reach.

Commissioners wondered how this Task Force was established – was it mandated to develop the protocol by which to carry out the recently passed anti-bullying legislation- or asked to come up with suggestions for some other entity (CPSD? CPD?) to carry out? [Priscilla has since found that the answers to both questions is "no." Several commissions were invited by CHRC to explore work on anti-bullying, given the new legislation. Meeting participants include representatives from Cambridge groups who have already been working on bullying and violence prevention and groups that have been suggested by other participants.] The next meeting of this Task Force was scheduled for August 2nd and Sarav volunteered to represent the commission.

V. Health Disparities and the GLBT population: Jeff Walker informed that recent data points to a higher incidence of lung cancer among the GLBT population (compared to the norm,) likely due to GLBT folks smoking from a younger age. This is substantive and significant data, important also because there is little or no data on other types of substance abuse. There is need for a Cambridge-based survey (similar to the existing "youth risk survey") for this type of data comparison- and perhaps the starting point for such a campaign could lie with CHD and the various city youth centers. Jeff will see if a meeting of these groups can be convened.

- VI. Senior Health Care and Housing Project: John reported that Mayor Maher is committed to using his staff to support this issue and to ensure that the Mayor's office will continue to work on this in the future. They envision hiring an intern to focus specifically on this project. John has an upcoming meeting scheduled with the Mayor and staff members Lee Gianetti and Leo Gayne. Jeff is concerned that too much time might be spent on process and not enough on getting stuff done. He suggests that the intern go after multi-year grants to establish trainings, events (such as the Cadbury Commons monthly socials,) and to launch pilot programs.
- VII. Out and Equal Workplace Summit: (October 5-8, 2011 in Los Angeles, CA) Sarav has attended many times, sponsored by his workplace. Should we request that the City send a representative (from the city HR department?) or a commissioner to this conference? We will ask Mayor Maher or Councilor Simmons to sponsor an order.
- VIII. Gender Neutral Bathroom Policy: Jeff has drafted a proposal (to have at least one gender-neutral bathroom in certain municipal buildings) to present to Richard Scali (Licensing,) Councilor Simmons, and one other councilor. Steven will e-mail this to commissioners.
- **IX. Danehy Park Family Day (Sat Sept 25, 11-4??)** John has e-mailed the organizer to inquire about our having a table at this event. Might we draft a survey regarding bullying or gender neutral bathrooms to conduct on that day? Awaiting response from organizers.
- X. Recruitment of new Commissioners Steven will draft a "job description," Kevin will create a flyer to advertise openings, John will work on a list of places/listservs to advertise, and Tony has created a Facebook page for us. We discussed having applicants come to t least one meeting and be interviewed by at least two commissioners. We also discussed having applicants submit answers to 5 questions (yet to be drafted) and a resume for consideration.

<u>Proposed Timeline</u>: Advertise by mid-Sept, Applications deadline mid-Oct, Nominations by mid-November, and Appointments made in time for new commissioners to attend our January meeting.

XI. Easy Access show on CCTV: Sarav and Lesley will talk with CCTV staff about using this 30-minute segment to interview various commissioners, possibly to explore an event on October 11, Monday which is National Coming Out Day. John will speak with CRLS Ed Byrne about collaborating on an event.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, September 23, 2010