

**November 21, 2013 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2013

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

The minutes of the October 24 meeting were approved.

Agenda for the November 21 meeting was accepted.

Commissioners Present: Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, John Gintell, Mal Malme, Steven Lee, Kristina Mastropasqua, Rachel Oppenheimer, Neil Scannell, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Bob Parlin, Lesley Phillips, Kara Smith, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Danny Venezia, Maggie Giles, Bill Barnert

Commissioners Absent: (excused) –Caitlin Drechsler

Commissioners On Leave: Dana Zircher

Guests: Benson Willis (Partner at Bistro Accounting – a Cambridge resident), Supt. Chris Burke (Cambridge Police)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

II. Police Report

- a. Pro Ambulance is getting involved in the GOAL training.
- b. Chris will be having a meeting with them tomorrow.
- c. He is a concerned about possibly overworking the GOAL trainers. They are looking to add more trainers and institute a “Train the Trainers” model to ease the load.
- d. There are new hires to the police department.
- e. Chris would like to add the Youth on Fire documentary to training that new officers receive.
- f. The transgender policy will be implemented in 2014.

III. New Members

- a. We have 19 members with one commissioner on leave.
- b. We assume we will have one opening.
- c. The posted deadline for applications is December 2 but might be extended.
- d. The Commission discussed the possibility of extending the number of seats on the commission (currently 20) to 24 and adding youth members.
- e. The Commission voted to maintain the current maximum number of 20 commissioners.

IV. Youth Advisory Committee

- a. The Commission decided to create a Youth Advisory Committee of some sort.
- b. Maggie will head the committee.

Past Events

- V. **Gender Non-Conformity in Children and Adolescents Conference**
- a. Aren will email notes about this.
- VI. **Youth on Fire library event**
- a. We're very proud of how this event went.
 - b. Over 200 people attended.
 - c. YOF thanked the Commission with a note.
 - d. Groups from Club Four, a high school group, and Bunker Hill Community College were in attendance
 - e. Spare Change newspaper, Rainbow Times newspaper, a free-lance journalist, and CCTV covered the event.
 - f. Kara and Kristina will write an article to submit to the Chronicle.
- VII. **Youth on Fire (next steps)**
- a. We would like feedback about the event from the YOF members. How did the event go for them? What went well? What do they wish had been done differently?
 - b. We would like to collaborate with YOF and the Harvard Square Shelter to continue to support their needs.
 - c. Neil will be working to distribute the documentary and create different, longer, versions of the film.

Future Events

- VIII. **Cambridge LGBT Teachers Event –**
- a. Kara reported on a meeting she had with Melody Brazo in October.
 - b. They would like to have a relaxed “Thank You” event, held at a bar or other relaxed environment for CPS teachers who have worked to provide a welcoming environment for LGBT youth.
 - c. Kara, Bill and John will work on putting this event together.
 - d. The event will likely be held in the spring.
- IX. **Mayor’s Volunteer Appreciation Day – Mon. 11/25 – noon to 5:30**
- a. Commissioners are welcome to show up for food and recognition.
- X. **Meeting with Cambridge Human Rights Commission**
- a. This meeting regarded a policy for transgender people in Cambridge homeless shelters.
 - b. Rachel and Gregory are meeting with the Human Rights Commission on Monday at 6pm at 51 Inman St.
- XI. **City Meetings with City Officials**
- a. John, Neil S, Bill, and Caitlin attended two meetings with the City Manager and Deputy City Manager on Monday.

- b. The first meeting also included Ellen Semonoff, Asst. City Manager of Human Services, The purpose of this was to discuss our proposal for survey of a Policy and Procedures wrt. LGBT Issues in all After School programs. At this time they don't want to allocate the resources feeling that they are in good shape and lots of training has been done. We have asked to be invited to one if their After School Managers meetings to talk about this and also we should talk to GSA leaders and perhaps some youth to get some feedback.
- c. The second meeting regarded our website and included Mary Hart, Director of IT. Instead of creating our own website, the IT department would like to train some commissioners on how to access and modify our pages on the city's website using their standard Content Management system.
- d. Steven and John have a meeting scheduled on December 9 with the City Manager and several others to address concerns about homophobic treatment in the city's workforce and how these issues are to be handled.

XII. Email/Newsletter

- a. How do we get people to know what we are doing regularly?
- b. Bill suggested that we have an informational email that goes out on a quarterly basis.
- c. He plans to draft a sample newsletter for the Commission to review.

XIII. City Annual Report

- a. John is planning to draft a several-page report about what the Commission has accomplished this year to send to City Management and the City Council.

XIV. Announcements

- a. Speak Out will be hiring an executive director in the coming year
- b. Bill will be starting to put together PSAs, so interested commissioners should contact him directly with ideas.
- c. National Coming Out assembly at CRLS will be tomorrow at 1:30pm.
- d. YOF has a job opening for a Young Adults Stabilization Advocate.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm