

**March 24, 2011 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

Call to Order.

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: Sarav Chidambaram, Toni Snow, Steven Lee, Mal Malme, Bob Parlin, Kevin Shpritzer, Priscilla Lee, Leslie Phillips, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Tony W.

Commissioners Absent: (excused) – John Gintell, Jeff Walker and Robert Coates

Guests: Supt. Christopher Burke, Cambridge Police Liaison

- I. Welcome to new Commissioner Marianne Mondt
- II. **Miscellaneous Project Updates**
 - A. **Purchasing tote bags to be used as giveaways.** Need by May 1st. **Actions:** John G. will talk with Lee Gianetti re Mayors Office paying for items, Tony W. will design, and Toni S. will get a bid from Logos-To-Go, a city vendor. City will require 3 bids and Lee G. will coordinate others.
 - B. **Second annual LGBTQ Equal Rights Conference.** Our Commission will co-sponsor (with Join the Impact) the second annual LGBTQ Equal Rights Conference, April 29-May 1st at Old South Church. We'll have a table and perhaps a panel. **Action:** Priscilla L., Marianne M. and Bob P. will propose a conference workshop. Suggested topic: How to form a GLBT commission in your community.
 - C. **Bayard Rustin Awards.** Commissioners have reviewed the nomination document. Call for nominations scheduled April 1-30; Steven L. and Sarav C. will represent Commission on Selection Committee – 3 more members to be chosen from within City. **Actions:** Tony W. will write press release (to be sent by Ini Tomeau) and will work on creating a distribution list. We should utilize flyers, Facebook, a Facebook Event, local newspapers, churches, and post an announcement on city website and on our website. Suggested that we request access of emailing lists from Peace Commission, Women's Commission and HRC. John G. will follow up with Mayor's Office re design of award to be given, as well as a plaque to be posted in City Hall that will show award recipients over the years.
 - D. **Boston GLBT film festival.** May 5-15th at Brattle Theatre. **Actions:** Leslie will speak with Councilor Simmons this week regarding a council order from the Mayor – John G. will follow up with Mayor's office re this. We should all visit festival website and discuss (via email) which film we want to sponsor.

- E. **LGBT and Aging.** Mal M. attended “LGBT and Aging” panel at Cambridge Adult Education Center. **Action:** We will invite Lisa Krinsky and Kate Thomas to a Commission meeting soon to discuss their work.
- F. **May 14th Youth Pride.** If we plan to participate this year, we pay a small fee and just show up. **Action:** We agreed to participate, but need volunteer(s) who will follow up.
- G. **Transgender 101.** Gunnar Scott will attend a meeting soon to do a PowerPoint presentation. We should open this talk up to the community, reserve Main Library or Senior Center space and provide an honorarium. **Action:** Mal M. will coordinate this.
- H. **Gender neutral bathrooms.** Priscilla L. reported on her meeting with Disability Commissioner Michael Meuhe. He is a resource for us because of his work in the City securing ADA-compliant public toilets (unisex, single stall). He suggested we create a 5-year plan and begin with “low hanging fruit”; i.e., create a listing of public toilets and address the easiest ones first. City contacts include Paul Lyle, Supt. of Public Buildings and Ranjit Singanayangam, Inspectional Services. We discussed whether we should do the work or should the City do it, and referred to the wording in the policy order, which states: “ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to appoint appropriate city staff, including the City Solicitor, to work with the Cambridge GLBT Commission to create a city-wide ordinance on gender-neutral bathrooms.” **Actions:** As this is an election year, we should attend forums and meet councilors to continue to move this issue forward. Sarav C. will create listing of News outlets, List Servers, Contacts to disseminate Commission info and archive on Yahoo website. Toni S. will review state building codes re public toilets.
- I. **Same sex marriage and health insurance.** **Action:** We’ll continue to work with City Council and City Manager to get a better response to the issue of inequitable federal taxation for same sex married City employees.
- J. **CRLS Principal Chris Saheed will retire in June.** The Commission should consider acknowledging him at Pride. **Action:** add to April meeting agenda.
- K. **Charter schools updates.** The creation of GSAs in charter schools is complicated because of the charter schools’ strict focus on academics; there are no after school clubs, sports teams, etc. Bob P., however, is getting involved in a city-wide GSA network which may help fill the need for charter school students.
- L. **Fire Dept and EMT training.** Supt. Burke met with Rich Rossi and Cambridge Fire Dept. Deputy Chief and spoke with GOAL’s Bobby Aldrich. GLBT sensitivity training at CFD will definitely happen now.

- M. **Grantmaking.** Supt. Burke will provide GLBT grantmaking materials for Toni S., Kevin S. and Steven L.
- N. **Discussion of recent same sex domestic homicide.** Cambridge Police Department is working with Fenway Health to identify procedures for dealing with same sex domestic violence.

Announcements:

- Priscilla L. and Sarav C. will participate in planning for the Mass Equality conference on May 17th, "7 years of Marriage and Still Itching for Equality," to benefit Mass Equality at Club Oberon (funk dance party with dessert and cash bar @ A.R.T. Donkey Show space.) Among the invitees (everyone!) are the 253 couples who got marriage licenses at City Hall on May 17, 2004. We are looking for party attendees (\$25) and sponsorships (from \$100). If any GLBT Commission member wants to come, but doesn't have the \$25, Priscilla L. will pay for your ticket.
- Priscilla L. attended a free MIT conference entitled "Gender, Sexuality and Urban Spaces." Excellent speaker, professor of architecture, Petra Doan.
- April 16th - Boston Roller Derby Dames in Wilmington.
- Leslie P. asked if we can consider moving location and starting time of mtgs. We could consider Library, 344 Broadway, or Senior Center. To be discussed at next meeting.
- Suggestion: Can we sponsor "Generation Silent" at Brattle in future? To be discussed.
- April 10th, Sarav C. will dance at Spring Step, Medford 4:30 to 6:00 pm.
- Apr 12th Oberon 6-10:30 pm. La Red network domestic violence fundraiser. Tickets are \$35.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.