

**February 28, 2013 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013**

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

The minutes of the January 24 meeting were approved.

Agenda for the February 28 meeting was accepted.

**Commissioners Present:** Steven Lee, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Bob Parlin, Mal Malme, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Caitlin Drechsler, Danny Venezia, Kristina Mastropasqua, Kara Smith, Rachel Oppenheimer, Neil Scannell, Rebecca Caira-Davila, John Gintell, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Lesley Phillips

**Commissioners Absent:** (excused) – Maggie Giles,

**Commissioners On Leave:** Dana Zircher

**Guests:** Ed Byrne (Student Diversity Programs Coordinator at Cambridge Rindge and Latin), Chris Burke (Supt. of Police)

**I. Introductions**

**II. Report**

- a. Several commissioners met with Mayor Davis, Ellen Semonoff (Deputy City Manager and Head of Human Services), Melody Brazo (School Dept. Family Liaison to the LGBT Community) and Alice Cohen (Cambridge Agenda for Children)
- b. The city employees were very responsive and receptive of the commissioners ideas and concerns.
- c. The discussion focused on how to incorporate LGBT sensitivity into everything the staff and teachers do at Cambridge's classrooms, especially in the city-sponsored out-of-school-time programs.

**III. Ed Byrne – Project 10 East**

- a. This year has the largest group he has seen coming to Project 10 East.
- b. They've been brainstorming how to support students and involve students, into the work of the club, who have a hard time coming to club meetings.
- c. Been able to partner with social workers to help the club members
- d. Topics of meetings have been primarily around bullying and harrassment.
- e. Trying to empower students to keep themselves safe but also to help others
- f. Attempting to start a tradition of an after-school coffee house
- g. Participating in Day of Silence.
- h. Professional development is being offered to CRLS teachers around LGBT school-related issues.

- i. Supt. Burke inquired with Ed about the possibility of opening up these professional development opportunities to other city departments such as the police force. They will be in touch.

#### IV. **Police Department Report**

- a. In the process of making public safety hirings
- b. 12 positions each for fire and police departments are being added
- c. Awaiting call from Sheriff's Dept to get an update on the GOAL New England training that was discussed last month.

#### V. **New Member Possibility**

- a. Robert Coats resigned, so we have one vacant commissioner position.
- b. We would like the final spot to be filled.
- c. Aren will follow up with a previously interviewed applicant.

#### VI. **Conferences**

- a. GLBT Communities and Domestic Violence – March 7-8
  - i. Danny is going to attend this conference, and Mal may be able to attend for a day as well.
- b. LGBT Elders in an Ever-Changing World – March 11
  - i. Aren, John, and Danny will be attending this conference.

#### VII. **Town Meeting Report**

- a. There should be a place for LGBT people to hang out.
- b. John would like us to find a way to put that idea on the table for the city to consider.
- c. Even though the commission has a lot going on right now, this is a long-term goal, so planting the seeds now would be helpful.

#### VIII. **Bayard Rustin Service Award 2013**

- a. Steven proposed a deadline of April 15 to accept nominations.

#### IX. **Give-Aways**

- a. We have a budget of \$700
- b. Steven is checking with Muna about city-approved vendors.
- c. Muna needs to know what items we want to buy, so he can refer us to certain vendors.
- d. Pens, magnets, totebags, bookmarks, stressballs, frisbees, pill-cutters, beachballs, etc. were suggested.

#### X. **Events**

- a. Brother Outsider – March 21 – 5:30pm Doors – 6:00pm Film
  - i. Kristina got posters and postcards for us. They're awesome!
  - ii. Danny talked to Whole Foods and Iggy's Bread of the World and they are willing to donate some supplies to the event.
  - iii. Maggie found that most pizza places will offer 10% discounts. Beauty's Pizza will be used if we choose to purchase pizza.

- iv. 1369 Coffee House is donating a box of coffee. More donations would be helpful or we will purchase some if need be.
- v. We will need commissioners manning tables, handing out programs, etc.
- vi. Bob will take photos.
- vii. Mal will introduce the event.
- viii. Brian Corr, Denise Simmons, and Priscilla Lee will all speak as well.

**XI. Youth On Fire**

- a. Gregory has been in contact with people from YOF.
- b. They have suggestions for how we can get involved and help out.

**XII. Communications**

- a. Making a PSA
  - i. John suggested that we make a PSA through Cambridge Community Television (CCTV). Several commissioners would need to work with him on this.
- b. Website
  - i. We discussed the pros and cons of having our own website.
  - ii. There were points on both sides.
  - iii. The discussion will continue at next month's meeting.
  - iv. Rebecca offered to create one if we decide to do this.
- c. Google Groups/Docs
  - i. Mike and Caitlin presented the new format and we looked at how to navigate the sites.
  - ii. We will check in at next month's meeting in case there are questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm