

**July 28 2011 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the July 28 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the June 23 meeting were approved

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Steven Lee, Sarav Chidambaram, Mal Malme, Kevin Shpritzer, Mike McKenna, Bob Parlin, Robert Coats, Marianne Mondt, , Lesley Phillips

Commissioners Absent: (excused) – Tony Wieczorek, Aren Stone, Priscilla Lee – (unexcused) Jeff Walker

Guests: Karey Kenst (intern), Colleen Johnston (Human Rights Commission)

- I. **Elder Project Update** - Karey Kenst updated the commission on her work. She has completed a literature review on GLBT issues in senior housing and healthcare. She presented a summary of her work. A lot of surveying work has been done around the country that is helpful to look at. She presented a chart with steps to follow for the project:
 - a. Defining the project and building momentum
 - b. Engaging stakeholders
 - c. Awareness raising
 - d. Data collection
 - e. Data analysis and reporting
 - f. Target a suite of interventions to address issues identified through data collection

She asked for help determining what is realistic for the commission to undertake in terms of data collection and analysis. She recommends that the commission comes up with a plan, presents it to the city council, and asks for the necessary resources to help carry out the plan.

The idea of using focus groups to gather information was presented. Focus groups would be a quicker method of data collection than spending a full year conducting surveys. Mal M. suggested working with Cadbury Commons.

John G. still believes that Ellen Semonoff, Asst. City Mgr. for Human Services, will be a key person to work with to get resources for this project. If we would like to see city funding, it will take time to get it written into the city budget.

Steven L. suggested that this project would be a good cause for which to write grants.

Lesley P. suggested commissioners attend candidates forums for the upcoming election and talk to candidates about the commission's needs.

Karey will set up a meeting with Kate Thomas of the Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services for a small group of commissioners.

II. Project Updates

- a. John G. will be meeting with some people to discuss gender neutral bathrooms. He is exploring whether other cities have similar ordinances. The city has over 40 buildings. He thinks it would be nice for the city to take a look at its buildings to figure out whether adding gender neutral bathrooms is a possibility. There may be issues with building and plumbing codes. Talking to the Chamber of Commerce or other business organizations would be a good idea.
- b. Sarav C. talked about a movie screening the Hispanic Black Gay Men's Coalition will be putting on. It is at the MFA at 7:30pm on July 29. The movie is called *Marriage Equality*. This is a good opportunity to connect with the GLBT community of color.
- c. John G. met with the LGBT group at Draper Laboratory.
- d. Kevin S. mentioned that the fundraising subcommittee is ready to seek grants but first needs the commission to develop a list of items that require funding.
- e. John G. mentioned the Danehy Park Family Day was attended by the commission last year. It would be nice to set up a commission table at this year's event, on Saturday, September 24. Kevin S. will help organize this event.
- f. The commission talked to Colleen Johnston, from the Human Rights Commission, about possibly organizing a gathering of both commissions.
- g. Sarav C. talked about hosting a town hall meeting. He suggested some point in October would be a good time.

III. Public Comment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.