

**June 28, 2012 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 26**

Call to Order.

Caitlin Drechsler recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the June 28 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the May 24 meeting were approved.

**Commissioners Present:** John Gintell, Robert Coats, Steven Lee, Marianne Mondt, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Maggie Giles, Dana Zircher, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Lesley Phillips, Caitlin Drechsler, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Mal Malme

**Commissioners Absent:** (excused) – Kevin Spritzer, Jeff Walker, Bob Parlin, Rebecca Caira-Davila

**Guests:** Chris Burke (Supt. of Police)

**I. Event Reports/Status/Planning**

- a. Gen Silent: a huge success
  1. Library happy with turnout. Marilyn Gagalis at the library was great, made things easy to set up.
  2. Partnering with organizations who helped with planning and publicity was great. For example, Kate Thomas getting the panel together, etc. Attendees felt it was nice to have two organizations that were not city organizations involved. Food was great! Transportation was used.
  3. More than a dozen nurses and social workers applied for Continuing Education Units - having those available and free was a nice draw.
  4. What should happen with the footage? Dana is taking classes at CCTV so we can use their resources in the future. Marianne will contact Kate about how to edit the footage and break it up into segments that we can feature on the web, Facebook and the city website. We might want to ask Denise if she wants the footage of her. Panelist might want footage of themselves.
  5. Photos? Could Bob go through and pick some to share? Maybe use Picasa to share? Eventually get the photos up on Facebook. All to draw more attention to the issue.
  6. We should do a similar event in the future and make use of the great space at the Library again. Council on Aging wants to continue to work with the Commission. Next year maybe we could tie in a Bayard Rustin film screening with the award? Quite a few films worth showing, partnering with

- other organizations. Could partner with the Peace Commission as they sometimes host events and have a staff to help with planning and preparation.
- b. Pride Brunch: Nice event, not as heavily attended as some in the past. Coordination wasn't as smooth as it could have been.
    1. Some info lacking or incorrect in press releases, etc.
    2. People arrived at 9:30 and program started at 10:30, which left too much time for just eating. Start the program at 10 instead. Only need 1/2 hour for food. Done at 11 with plenty of time to get to the parade.
    3. Next year try to get more young people there. Performance by kids? Organizational award to Project Ten East? Our Committee could offer Arthur Lipkin help with the selection of the Rose Lipkin Award in order to get it done earlier with more time to get the word out to high school students. Give awardees more times to encourage their peers to come.
  - c. Danehy Park Family Day: is it worth doing? Yes, exposure is important. Plus this year was have something to publicize (the Town Meeting). Kevin will coordinate. Late September date. We should give something away and have folks fill something out. Pens, tattoos, frisbees? Marianne will order giveaways.
  - d. Town Meeting:
    1. Thursday October 11th is National Coming Out Day and might be a good date.
    2. Denise wants three planning meetings between now and then. First is on July 12. Aren will go to the first meeting and see what Denise wants from us. Aren can act as liaison and will send out minutes from that first meeting.
    3. What do we (the Commission) want to bring to this? Visibility. Ask the community about the issues they are facing. Talk about seniors. Talk about after school activities. Our goals are to hear from the community and give Denise a chance to hear from the community. What are the issues they think need attention?
    4. Format of the last Town Hall worked well: Commission could highlight our recent successes, what we do, then work with the public, question and answer style. Ask the public about issues and suggested solutions. Break into small groups based on issues that have been raised. Facilitators lead small group discussions and take notes, then all come back together and share. Notes later typed up and emailed out. Similar to World Cafes that have been happening. We recommend a professional facilitator to lead the Town Hall.

## II. **Communication/publicity**

- a. Web Page Improvements:
  1. Right now we have to send requests to IT and have them make the changes. Need to talk to head of IT about being able to make our own changes.

2. We need to address content. For example, update list of Links. New, accurate content. It would be good to know what format IT is using so that we can give them what we want in the right format, make it easy for them. Dana, John, Steven, Mike will be the committee to work on this.
3. Could we just have a link to a better website on our official city website?
- b. How to use email addresses we've gathered: mostly gathered last year.
  1. Use a service like Constant Contact to send emails re: events, updates on our projects, etc. Maybe monthly update coming out of meetings? Provide an email address for them to reply to. We need to figure out how we could pay for such a service (have the funds, but what payment method will work best?). Marianne is going to look into email services.
  2. Caitlin will invite people to like us and share our posts on Facebook.
- c. Brochures: we have the Commission brochure, some are now kept in City Hall for people to take. Could put some at the library? Main Library only allows library business in the library but branches have tables and places for brochures. Steven is working on the Seniors brochure. Will run it by Kate Thomas and Lisa Krinsky.
- d. Event planning protocol: A binder to keep from year to year for stuff like Pride Brunch? Checklists? Need a lead organizer for each event, maybe two. Maggie and Aren will write something up for the next meeting re: event planning. Then we can create more specific guidelines for particular events. Publicity needs to be accurate and wide reaching to get our name out.
- e. Yahoo Group: not the best method for communicating. Threads can get confusing because things are not in order in digests. Dana would be excited to present other options. Marianne and Mike will help. They will bring proposals to the group so we can all look at possibilities.

### III. **Project Planning**

- a. Next steps: Seniors Project. Informal assessment meeting with Cadbury Commons and Cambridge Homes, as well as with a couple of health care providers. Separate meetings with each organization. Find out about policies and practices and how much autonomy they have, in the case of Health Centers. Thirteen health care places listed by Consumer Reports as being in Cambridge. John and Dana interested in working with the Health Centers.
  1. Harvard Vanguard just got one of 11 Boston area health care facility HRC Quality Index recognitions. Cambridge Health Alliance wasn't on the list. Getting Cambridge Health Alliance on HRC list is a good goal, but maybe a higher level goal. Could we show them a list of those organizations on the HRC list as incentive to get them interested in working with us? Aren will contact Harvard Vanguard to talk with them about Commission and how they serve LGBT clients, and will look into developing

contacts at Cambridge Health Alliance, John will contact Windsor Street Health Center.

2. Need to connect with Cambridge Homes and Cadbury Commons. Maybe talk to John at Cadbury Commons first, to inform the discussion with folks at Cambridge Homes. Ask Cambridge Homes what help we can provide too.
3. Ask if we can we have a formal presence at the LGBT dinner at Cadbury Commons for LGBT seniors. Aren will contact Cadbury Commons.
- b. Next steps: Youth Project: Maggie would like to lead a needs assessment group for the youth project. Caitlin and Mal can help. Beginning in July/August.

#### IV. **Other action items**

- a. Finances: didn't spend all of last year's budget. We have \$2,500 for the coming year. If we go over, we can probably get more money. Spent money on Gen Silent and promotional materials, Commission table cloth. Marianne now knows how to make people approved vendors.
1. Do we want Karen Preval from the city manager's office to come to a meeting to talk to us about the budget process? She is also the chair of the city employee Diversity Committee. Maybe our July meeting? Aren will contact her.
- b. Meeting on LGBT people in homeless shelters July 16 in the evening. Led by Human Rights Commission. Some GLBT commissioners should go.
- c. Middle Schools. Coordinate with Melody Brazo and meet with the four principals of the new middle schools. John will talk to Melody about how we might be able to do this and when.

#### V. **Closing**

- a. Announcements: Neil met with the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Female vets have special means of getting services; need to do the same for GLBT vets. Good sexual assault services for women but need that for men too. Will be meeting with the secretary himself soon. They have been receptive. Should give them the Aging Project info too.
- b. Announcements: meeting in August? No.
- c. Public Comment
- d. Adjournment - 7:37 pm

#### **Complete Action Items List:**

Gen Silent Film Footage: *Marianne* will talk to Kate Thomas about how to edit into usable clips.

Gen Silent Photos: Can *Bob* go through and pick some to share and post?

Danehy Park Family Day: *Kevin* will coordinate; *Marianne* will buy items to give away.  
Town Hall Meeting: *Aren* will meet with Denise on July 12. *Aren* will report back about the meeting.

Website Updates: *Dana, John, Steven, Mike* will review changes to be made.

Invites to Like us on Facebook: *Caitlin*

Seniors Brochure: *Steven* is working on this.

Event Planning Protocol: *Maggie* and *Aren* are going to draft a protocol.

Communication tools (instead of Yahoo Groups): *Dana* will lead this with help from *Marianne and Mike*.

Health Centers: *John and Dana* will contact them.

Youth Project: *Maggie* will head this us with help from *Mal and Caitlin*.

Karen Preval visiting a GLBT Commission meeting: *Aren* will contact her.

Middle schools: *John* will contact Melody about when we might meet with principles.

Cadbury Commons about LGBT Seniors survey and Commission presence at Seniors dinner: *Aren* will contact

**Unassigned Action Items:**

Info form for folks to fill out at Danehy Park Family Day?

Contacting Cambridge Homes?