

**October 27, 2011 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the October 27 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the September 22 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Steven Lee, Kevin Shpritzer, Bob Parlin, Marianne Mondt, Lesley Phillips, Aren Stone

Commissioners Absent: (excused) – Sarav Chidambaram, Tony Wiczorek, Priscilla Lee, Mike McKenna, Jeff Walker, Robert Coats, Mal Malme

Guests: Gregory, Jodie (members of the public)

- I. John G. gave some background about the origins of the commission and some of its accomplishments over the years. He also gave a basic suggested outline for the upcoming town hall meeting.
- II. **GLBT Town Meeting Planning**
 - a. The previous town hall meeting helped supply the commission with their meeting agendas for quite some time.
 - b. The town meeting is in the middle of Transgender Awareness Week, so it will be important to make that a part of the evening's agenda. Perhaps the mayor can speak on the progress of the senior project.
 - c. John G. reviewed the goals that came out of the previous town hall meeting and discussed how well we've done reaching or not reaching those goals.
 - d. Focusing on the transgender rights bill will likely be a part of the meeting.
 - e. This is a good opportunity to get the attendees to open up and share what's on their minds.
 - f. Lesley P. proposed a true town meeting format, with an open mic, followed by breakout groups into topics. Lesley also suggested having a handout with a history of the GLBT town meeting.
 - g. Marianne M. suggested having a comment box.
 - h. All commissioners in attendance suggested ideas for a format.
 - i. Agenda needs to be publicized.
 - j. In terms of publicity, Lesley P. said we need to contact the Cambridge Chronicle asap if we want to get an announcement into their 11/3 or 11/10 issues or the Bay Windows newspaper.
 - k. **After discussing the fact that the town meeting's agenda is not completely planned, and that it has not been publicized well, the decision was made to postpone the meeting until early 2012. An update will be sent out to the**

commission's email list, and posted on the commission's Facebook page. City officials who had been told about the the meeting will be notified.

1. Wednesday, March 14 was tentatively chosen for the 2012 town hall meeting. Steven L. will contact the mayor's office to reserve the Sullivan Chamber in City Hall for that date.

III. **Next Meeting**

- a. Due to the 4th Thursday of November falling on Thanksgiving, and some schedule conflicts on the 3rd Thursday, when it had originally been schedule, the commission agreed that **the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1.**
- b. John G. will take care of rescheduling the room at the Windsor Street Health Center.
- c. Some suggested agenda items for the Decmeber meeting:
 - i. Finalize plans for the 2012 town hall meeting.
 - ii. Discuss the idea of establishing committees such as a publicity committee.
 - iii. Consider the possibility of having working meetings.
 - iv. Break apart the Seniors Housing Project and assign small components of it to different people or committees.
 - v. Establish procedure for filling vacant commission seats.

IV. **Vacant Commissioner Seats**

- a. The application deadline for potential commissioners will be moved back to December 2.
 - i. This change will be reflected on the commission's website and Facebook page.

V. **Transgender Rights Legislation**

- a. Surveys show more than half of the voters in Massachusetts support the passing of the bill.
- b. 15 other states have transgender rights legislation.
- c. John G. recommends all commissioners contact their legislators asking them to support the bill.

VI. **Public Comment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.