

**September 27, 2012 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2012

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the September 27 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the July 26 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Steven Lee, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Caitlin Drechsler, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Rebecca Caira-Davila, Maggie Giles, Robert Coats, Lesley Phillips

Commissioners Absent: (excused) – Jeff Walker, Marianne Mondt, Dana Zircher, Bob Parlin, Mal Malme

Guests: Chris Burke (Supt. of Police)

I. GOAL Fire Department training

- a. Training of the fire department by gay officers action league (GOAL New England) took place in August.
- b. Deputy Chief Rossi supported it.
- c. This was hard to schedule but was well received.
- d. Supt. Burke put a lot of work into making it happen.
- e. Not only completed training but used as a springboard for doing trainings of more police officers in the future.
- f. Cambridge Police will be providing some space for future trainings to take place.
- g. The police department is developing a community outreach training presentation and is holding a focus group to preview and comment on the training on October 24.
- h. Steven, Maggie and Mike will attend.

II. Danehy Park Family Day – 9/22/12

- a. Staffing was a bit difficult, but the event was an overall success.
- b. Aren, Kevin, Caitlin and Maggie staffed the five-hour event.
- c. It would have been helpful to have little give-aways like pens or stickers to attract more of a crowd.
- d. Fred Fantini (School Committee) and Henrietta Davis (Mayor) each visited the table.

III. Oktoberfest

- a. The commission has elected not to participate this year due to the inability to properly staff the table.

IV. GLBT Town Meeting – October 27 – 9am to 2pm

- a. We discussed to what extent the commission would like to be involved *as the commission*.

- b. At least a few commissioners will be available to attend the event, so *we would like to participate as the commission and be considered co-sponsors of the event if possible.*

V. **Expiring Terms/Recruiting**

- a. Several commissioners have terms expiring this year: Lesley, John, Steven, Mike and Jeff.
- b. John, Lesley and Mike would like to be reappointed. Jeff will finish out his term but doesn't want to be reappointed because of schedule constraints.
- c. Marianne resigned via email today.
- d. The official notice seeking new commissioners will be published and distributed soon, with an application deadline of December 3.

VI. **November Meeting Date – 5th Thursday, November 29**

- a. Melody Brazo will be coming to the October GLBT Commission meeting.
- b. Caitlin suggested we brainstorm a list of questions for Melody prior to next month's meeting.

VII. **Money**

- a. The commission has money to spend and it needs to be spent.
- b. With Marianne resigning, Steven volunteered to take on the role of purchasing items, indicating he likely will ask for his reappointment for a new term as a commissioner.

VIII. **Events**

- a. Aren would like commissioners to start thinking about big events for next year.
- b. She was also thinking we could publish a *newsletter* a few times a year.
 - i. This could include a biography on a commissioner, GLBT-related news from around the state, nation and world, and actions from the commission.
 - ii. We will need a few commissioners dedicated to creating this newsletter.
 - iii. Lesley would be interested in being involved in the editing.
- c. Maggie created a checklist for participating in community events to help keep things more organized.
- d. *The commission voted* to allow Mike, Rebecca and Dana to decide on the future means of communication for the commission. Possibly, a move to Google is in the cards.

IX. **Seniors Health and Housing Update**

- a. Need a comprehensive needs assessment of all the health and housing organizations in the city as to how they're working with senior GLBT issues.
- b. John suggested we need to find a way to get some staff from the city to help achieve this.
- c. How can we campaign to the city government for help in executing this project?
- d. Caitlin suggested getting a small group of counselors to do a sample needs assessment with an organization in the city. Then, bring those results to the city and ask for help conducting remaining assessments.
 - i. Gregory and Neil offered to help reach out to a trial facility.
 - ii. Aren can help create a questionnaire.

X. **Youth After School Project**

- a. Caitlin offered to help create a questionnaire about this, and Maggie and John said they would be willing to be involved, too.

XI. Homeless Shelters Project

- a. It would be good to get someone from Youth on Fire to participate in the town meeting.
- b. Maggie will contact someone from that group.

XII. Announcements

- a. The commission is concerned about some transgender issues that have come up around the state. We discussed how involved we can and should be in these issues.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm