

**January 26, 2012 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012**

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the December 1 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the January 26 meeting were approved.

**Commissioners Present:** John Gintell, Steven Lee, Kevin Shpritzer, Bob Parlin, Marianne Mondt, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Robert Coats, Mal Malme

**Commissioners Absent:** (excused) – Jeff Walker, Lesley Phillips

**Guests:** Chris Burke (Supt. of Police), Neil, Caitlin, Dana (members of the public who are candidates to join the commission)

**I. Election of co-chairs**

- i. Aren mentioned she's interested in the facilitation aspect of being a co-chair with John.
- ii. Steven nominated John and Aren to be co-chairs.
- iii. This nomination was seconded by a number of commissioners.
- iv. *John and Aren were unanimously elected as co-chairs of the commission.*

**II. GLBT Town meeting**

- i. Due to the lack of an appointed mayor in Cambridge, John recommended putting off the scheduled March 14 town meeting to a later date, to be decided later. The Commission agreed.
- ii. We want to get action items from the seniors health and housing project going prior to holding the town meeting.

**III. Seniors health and housing project**

- i. John gave a background of the project.
- ii. We'd like to have a screening of the movie *Gen Silent*
  1. Mal, Aren, and Steven met to discussing the screening.
  2. Aren thinks we should pick a date for the screening and go from there.
  3. It costs \$500 per showing for the first 100 people. They will give us a quote for more than 100 people.
  4. There was discussion about who the target audience for the movie is. John would like some members of the city government to be in attendance.
  5. It was decided that the high school auditorium would be the preferred setting. We could get Project 10 East members involved.
  6. The subcommittee will get in touch with appropriate contacts at the high school and Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to set up the event.
  7. The goal for the showing is between March and May.

- iii. We want to have a brochure and fact sheet for the project.
- iv. We will try to join the monthly GLBT seniors dinners at Cadbury Commons. This would be a good way to publicize the showing. John will try to send out reminders about the dinners.
- v. CCTV would be a good place to publicize as well.

#### **IV. Outreach events**

- i. Harvard Square Mayfair – May 6 – Kevin will make the contacts for setting this up.
- ii. LGBT Film Festival – May 3 – 13 – Bob will make some contacts for this
- iii. River Festival – June 2
- iv. Danehy Park Family Day – late September
- v. National Coming Out Day – October 11 (perhaps a good time to have the town meeting)

#### **V. Pride Brunch**

- i. Need to get started planning the Bayard Rustin award earlier than last year.
- ii. Need a plaque for last year's and this year's award winners to put up in the City Hall entrance.
- iii. We also need to set a date for accepting nominations for the award.

#### **VI. Fundraising**

- i. Marianne and Steven have identified some groups that may be able to donate money.
- ii. However, they need more information about our status in terms of eligibility to receive funding.
  - 1. For example, we need an itemized budget.
- iii. Steven is looking into grant-writing.
- iv. He suggested purchasing gender-neutral signage for the bathrooms in private facilities.
  - 1. This may work, but John cautioned that the state plumbing code has strict guidelines about bathrooms and genders and requires research.
  - 2. State plumbing regulation 248 CMR 10.00 is what John is referring to.
  - 3. We need to look into the laws prior to trying to encourage establishments to change their single-occupancy bathrooms to gender-neutral.

#### **VII. Business**

- i. Aren suggested we look into having business cards made for commissioners, so we can give them out to people we meet who may be interested in the commission.
- ii. On a related note, Steven asked if commissioners could get more official email addresses, perhaps City of Cambridge addresses.
- iii. John would like a city phone number instead of the current Google Voice phone number that we use.
- iv. Mike is looking into setting up a Twitter account for the organization.
- v. Mike will take charge of posting advertisements for the monthly meetings on Facebook.

#### **VIII. Proposed Youth Project**

- i. We would like to hire an intern to help with the task of cataloguing all of the schools in Cambridge and asking key questions about the treatment of GLBT youth and any policies that are in place regarding bullying incidents with GLBT overtones.
- ii. We will contact Melody Brazo to see if she has some of this information.

**IX. Announcements**

- i. Project 10 East will have a “Coffee House” on Wednesday, February 8 from 2:30-4:30 in the Media Cafeteria. Some commissioners may try to attend.
- ii. Chris Burke reported on progress regarding GOAL NE training with the Cambridge Fire Department. Bobby Aldrich isn’t as involved as he used to be, so there’s a bit of a delay on getting things going. If he is unable to help, they may look into whether there are other trainers who could get involved.
- iii. He wondered if the commission could help “advertise” the fact that he and the Cambridge Police Department will be supportive and receptive of reports of any GLBT related incidents, and they will follow up.
- iv. Neil suggested adding the number for the anonymous tip line on the brochure.
- v. Chris would like people to contact him personally to help expedite any issues or incidents in relation to the GLBT community. 617-349-3385 is Chris’s office line, which is available 24/7.
- vi. Commissioner Reverend Robert Coats offered to be a contact for anyone who needs to be in contact with a queer minister.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.