

**May 26, 2011 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2011**

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the May 26 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the April 28 meeting were approved.

**Commissioners Present:** John Gintell, Sarav Chidambaram, Jeff Walker, Toni Snow, Robert Coates, Mal Malme, Kevin Shpritzer, Priscilla Lee, Leslie Phillips, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Marianne Mondt

**Commissioners Absent:** (excused) – Steven Lee, Bob Parlin, Tony Wiczorek

**Guests:** Lisa Krinsky and Kate Thomas

- I. Commission thanked Toni Snow for her years of service to the GLBT Commission. She has been a member since 2008 and was the first straight ally on the commission. Toni hopes the commission continues its outreach and explores the natural opportunities that exist for grants. She suggested tapping into grants from the Runaway Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) and allying with Ellen Semonoff, the assistant city manager.
- II. **Riverfest** – The commission will have a table at Cambridge Riverfest on June 4. John G., Sarav C., and Mal M. are planning to man the table and are seeking the help of a few additional commissioners. Mike M. will drop off the supplies for the table in the morning.
- III. **LGBT Aging Project** – Lisa Krinsky, director of the LGBT Aging Project, spoke to the commission about her organization. She said there is still a distrust of mainstream elder care providers' ability to attend to LGBT issues. Her group works to educate people on the LGBT culture changes that exist throughout the generations. They have trained staff at a variety of agencies in the area on LGBT aging issues and caregiving.
- IV. **Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services** – Kate Thomas spoke to the commission about the Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services organization. Her group provides services to people aged 60+ to assist with day-to-day activities. They have a phone line to help answer questions and serve more than 1200 people. They provide their service providers with training to ensure fair treatment of staff and clients. On June 22, from 6-8pm, there will be a monthly dinner at Cadbury Commons on Sherman Street in North Cambridge. This dinner is held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. The Cambridge GLBT Commission may try to have a presence at the June dinner.
  - a. John G. informed Kate and Lisa that the city is hiring a paid intern who will be working LGBT aging issues.

- b. Sarav C. asked Kate and Lisa if they are doing any work to increase the diversity of their clients. Both Kate and Lisa expressed that they have tried targeted outreach but would like to do a better job of finding LGBT minorities.
  - c. Priscilla L. indicated to Kate and Lisa that the commission would like more information about the needs of the LGBT elderly community.
  - d. Lisa questioned what the Cambridge Housing Authority's stance on diversity was, and suggested that may be a good guiding question to ask. She suggested we conduct a needs assessment of LGBT older adults to figure out what issues are important to the population. Also, she suggested collaborating with the Council on Aging on projects.
  - e. Robert C. suggested a focus on end-of-life issues for LGBT people.
- V. **Pride Brunch** – The commission discussed the 2011 Cambridge Pride Brunch. It will be held on June 11, in City Hall, from 9:30 – 11:00.
- a. John G., Sarav C., Sue Hyde, and Lee Gianetti met to plan the event.
  - b. There will be a recognition award given to a Cambridge Rindge and Latin School student and one to a community member.
  - c. The Bayard Rustin award will be posthumously awarded to Reverend Peter Gomes. Permission to use Bayard Rustin's name for the award is being sought from his estate.
    - i. Kevin S., Steven L., and Sarav C. have selected designs for the award and plaque.
  - d. Numerous commissioners mentioned that they plan to attend the brunch and can help out.
  - e. John G. suggested we should give away tote bags at Pride Brunch.
- VI. **Materials for Outreach Tables** – Aren S. presented additional material that she suggested should be available at future outreach events to make our table more useful to people, particularly straight allies, who want to help. We will try to get some of the documents printed out for Riverfest.
- VII. **Budget** – John G. informed the commission that we will have a \$2500 budget starting July 1, 2012. We will need to figure out how to access the funds.
- VIII. **Medical Benefits Compensation** – John G. announced that beginning in July, the city will begin paying stipends to compensate city employees in same-sex marriages who

must pay additional federal taxes on their health benefits. The commission would like to publicize this news and to be sure the commission's role in the passing of this order is acknowledged. Sarav C. noted that the commission needs to update this year's accomplishments on our website and in our brochure to include this order.

- IX. **Gender Neutral Bathrooms** – This is an ongoing item, and the next step is to look into legal issues.

Announcements:

- Sarav C. will be in the GLBT talent show on June 3 at Club Machine in Boston.
- Mike M. went to a Human Services Planning Commission meeting. He reported that they are doing a survey to assess issues at homeless shelters. Domestic violence shelters must now accept men and transgender people. They will be looking into staff training later this year. Mal M. will ask a friend to come talk about LGBT homeless youth issues at an upcoming meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.