

**February 26, 2009 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

I. Call to Order

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Sarav Chithambaram, Bob Parlin, Chris Mason, Neil Minahan, Mal Malme, Toni Snow, Jeff Walker, Richard Juang, Priscilla Lee, Colby Berger, Leslie Phillips, Tony Wiczorek.

II. Motion to Accept Agenda: Passed.

III. Motion to Accept Minutes from January 22, 2009 meeting: Passed.

IV. Anti-gay hate group from Kansas, Westboro Baptist Church (WBC), will demonstrate at CRLS on Friday, March 13th. Review of plans for counter-protest: Unanimous vote for Commission to take a leading role to ensure public safety while creating an effective counter-protest by holding a “Phelps-A-Thon” in the name of WBC’s founder, Fred Phelps, to raise money for CRLS’s Project 10E and Cambridge’s Welcoming Schools Program. Tasks to be accomplished include:

A. Letter to City Manager (Toni S.): Letter will describe plans for assembling on day of event, Commission’s role in setting respectful tone, and Phelps-A-Thon and how it will result in funds raised for P10E.

B. Publicity (Tony W. and Commission): Tony W. will design flyer and Toni S. will provide copies. Priscilla L. will contact Sue Hyde for bullet points detailing Cambridge gay rights milestones and also ask her to speak at the event.

C. Sign Making (Commission and CRLS Students): Commission will gather for sign making on Thursday, March 12th at 7:30 pm. Counter-protesters will hold signs made by CRLS students. (Bob P. will confirm this with CRLS principal.)

D. Public Art (Jeff W.): Jeff will contact local artist Sidewalk Sam (Robert Guillemin) re peace dove design near demonstration site.

E. Other Publicity (Commission): To be determined but will include flyering, emailing, and networking.

F. Speakers: (Jeff W. and Commission) Reverend Irv Cummings, Mayor Simmons, Sue Hyde and others TBD.

V. Police Subcommittee Status

A. Tasks (Toni S.):

1. Arrange tour of new CPD facility – one goal will be to view holding cells to assess how they work for GLBT people.
2. Contact Kelly Downes re Hate Crimes Policy – has it been implemented?
3. Contact Joanne Shapiro re GLBT sensitivity training – has it been incorporated?
4. Also for Joanne Shapiro: Can GOAL help with GLBT sensitivity training for Fire and EMT workers?

VI. March Meeting – confirm that Police Subcommittee be renamed “Public Safety Committee” (Toni S.): The new name will be in keeping with the evolving agenda of the subcommittee to focus more broadly on GLBT training in other public safety areas.

VII. Develop Talking Points for Commission members meetings with City Councilors and School Dept. (John G.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.