

## **Cambridge GLBT Commission Minutes of Meeting, January 28, 2008**

**In Attendance:** Colby Berger, John Gintell, Bob Parlin, Jeff Walker

Bob Parlin motioned to accept minutes from October, John Gintell seconded the motion, all present were in favor.

### **GLBT Commission Ordinance:**

John Gintell gave an update on the status of the Commission. A “call” for new commissioners has gone out throughout January and we discussed the various venues that it has appeared. A prospective, new commissioner joined the meeting as a member of the general public. According to the text of the Commission Ordinance we are looking for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 9 new commissioners to join the Commission. We also discussed the appointment process that will take place with the City Manager and agreed on the assumptive understanding that we will not be part of the appointment process. We decided that the timely appointment of new commissioners, as well as the process for seeking budget funding and the appointment of an ED should be a conversation soon had with Mayor Simmons.

#### ***Actions:***

- Jeff will set up a meeting with Mayor Simmons to include Colby and John.
- John will contact Public Information Office to find out the status of applicants for the commission.
- John will edit the Op Ed piece that Jeff drafted in late '07 and this will go to the Chronicle among other media outlets for publication ASAP.

### **Project 10East and GLBT Family Liaison:**

We discussed the upcoming School Committee budget hearings and whether or not the Commission should advocate in favor of an increase of the Project 10 East position to full time status. This matter is in question because we have been informed that funding for such an increase may come from existing school budget and would detract from other funded programming (it is unclear to us what this could mean). Additionally, there is an ongoing discussion about a parallel need for a position like Project 10 East coordinator to address race and immigrant issues.

#### ***Actions:***

- Bob Parlin will further investigate the issue and report back to the Commission
- Jeff will add this matter to the agenda for the upcoming meeting with Mayor Simmons. The Commission will seek her advise on how best to proceed.

### **Senior Issues:**

The Commissioners agree that this is a very large and ongoing area of the Commissions work and is a good place for a paid staff person to begin developing their work and the mission of the Commission. Many programs, departments, agencies, and individuals will be needed at the table to taskforce a solution to existing problems. Most importantly, a comprehensive, thoughtful, and usable survey of the issues and problems will need to be conducted under the direction of this taskforce and Commission staff.

***Actions:***

- Discuss this matter with Mayor Simmons and propose a meeting be conducted with Assistant City Manager Semonoff

**Police Department Trainings:**

***Actions:***

- Colby will report back on the status of spring trainings currently scheduled.

***Election of New Chairs:***

The Commission discussed that elections are due for new chairs. It was also discussed that it would be beneficial to postpone elections so that new commissioners could participate in the process and possibly be appointed to the role of chair or co-chair. Colby and Jeff agreed to stay on as co-chairs until October of 2008, or until a critical mass of commissioners has been convened and an election can be suitably held.