

**July 24, 2008 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**I. Call to Order, Appointment of Minutes Taker, Recording Roll**

Priscilla Lee recorded these minutes.

Commissioners Present: Colby Berger, Sarav Chithambaram, Monika Dargin, John Gintell, Priscilla Lee, “Mal” Malme, Chris Mason, Richard Scali, Bob Parlin, Lesley Phillips, Toni Snow, Jeff Walker, Tony Wiczorek.

**II. Motion to Accept Agenda:** Passed with addition of agenda item: Event sub-committee to plan October 22, ‘08 Cambridge GLBT Town Meeting.

**III. Motion to Accept minutes from June 2008 meeting:** Passed.

**IV. Sub-Committee Reports and Updates on Tasks:**

**A. Election of new Co-Chairs and Clerk (Jeff Walker and Colby Berger):**

After a review and clarification of Co-Chair responsibilities, John Gintell and Sarav Chithambaram put forward their candidacies for GLBT Commission Co-Chair and in turn, each was voted unanimously (by all present) into the role. Congratulations and gratitude.

Next Steps: Out-going and in-coming Co-Chairs confer.

After a review and clarification of Clerk responsibilities, Toni Snow was voted unanimously into the role of Commission Clerk. Again, congratulations and much gratitude.

Next Steps: John Gintell will assist Toni with how to archive Meeting minutes.

**B. Cambridge Police Department (Toni Snow)**

This subcommittee recently met to orient themselves to the task: what’s been done, what still needs doing, what loose ends are hanging, what ideas for further improvement... To that end, Colby summarized the work and passed on a file of documentation and notes.

Sarav has set up a Yahoo group for the members of this subcommittee.

Next Steps: Work with Joanne Shapiro (Cambridge Police Dept) re: hate crimes reporting (note: crime statistics can be accessed via the CPD website) and incorporating GLBT awareness as part of the basic CPD training. Invite the police commissioner and any “out” officers to a future meeting and perhaps invite Steve Ahearn (CPD GLBT liaison) to attend regularly.

Other ideas:

Consider getting the Human Rights Commission involved with this work (Richard J. will contact HRC.) The subcommittee also discussed the availability of safe social spaces and considered how to attract GLBT entertainment to Cambridge. From past notes: Explore how to address GLBT sensitivity in the training of EMTs, Firefighters, House of Corrections administrators, etc.

**C. Education (Bob Parlin)**

Melody Brazo (Welcoming Schools Liaison) and Kathy Keegan (Coordinator of P10 East, the gay-straight alliance at CRLS) will be continuing in their roles. They’ll attend our September meeting.

Next Steps: Next sub-committee meeting will be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September. We’ll ask

Kathy and Melody to attend and speak at the Town Meeting.

#### **D. Outreach and Publicity (Chris Mason, Tony Wiczorek)**

This subcommittee met recently and came up with many ideas including:

- to use our website (or depending on City specs, create another via Facebook, Myspace, etc...) in part as an on-line resource with links to relevant information
- to publicize the existence/work of the commission via video ads on YouTube (it was noted that we have an existing PSA circulating on CCTV,) perhaps via political action blogs
- to contact the Boston GLBT Liaison (Mayor's Office) for outreach and publicity ideas
- to reach out to GLBT college groups (the existence of "the Mothership," the Harvard Queer Student Leadership Network, with delegates from other colleges, was noted,) to local church groups, and other GLBT groups
- to publicize imminent events via a banner at City Hall, at local GLBT events ("Guerilla Bar" nights,) and in local newspapers

Questions: Are there any Cambridge employers that have gay affinity groups? If there an established group for gay-owned-and-operated business owners? How will we use the Public Commission Yahoo group?

Next Steps: Pull together a press release for the upcoming Town Meeting- Tony will draft a flyer in a week or two and get commissioner feedback.

#### **E. GLBT Elders (John Gintell):**

Mal Malme will join this subcommittee.

Next Steps: Sub-committee will meet between now and September's meeting. Utilize Town Meeting in October to elicit needs – Create/implement survey to address elder GLBT housing issues. Access Cambridge's "Aging in Place" initiative to reach out to GLBT seniors.

#### **F. Events**

Next Steps: Jeff will convene the sub-committee that will meet in late August. We will focus on details of the OUTFEST/Town Mtg (agenda, format (break out sessions, mixed groups,) list of invitees, outreach/flyering...) The event will be co-sponsored by the Commission and the Mayor's Office.