

May 22nd, 2008 meeting minutes

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, Crhis Mason, Neal Minahan, Bob Parlin, Lesley Phillips, Toni Snow, Jeff Walker, Tony Wiczorek

Also present: Liliana Leitner-Laserna (public)

II. **Motion to Accept Agenda:** Passed

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

IV. **Committee reports and Updates on Tasks:**

1. **Review of GLBT Commission Ordinance and discussion of By-Laws**

(John Gintell) Handouts attached to this meeting's printed agenda include the Commission Ordinance and the Commission By-Laws (as drafted three years ago.) Commissioners reviewed Ordinance Section 2.125.020, Function and Purpose.

Next Steps: Commissioners have been asked to look over the By-Laws as well as a document titled, "GLBT Commission Structural Design Thoughts," for input to future discussions or as member or contributor to the GLBT Operations sub-committee.

2. **Update on June 14th GLBT Pride Brunch** (Jeff Walker)

Pride planning group (including several commissioners) continues to meet. The program will include these highlights among others:

- > Mayor E. Denise Simmons, Welcome
- > Sue Hyde - quick proc on Sarah Bannen
- > Author: Sarah Bannen (Uncle Bobby's Wedding)
- > Mayor to give out copies of the book
- > Sue Hyde - quick proc on Jenn Chrisler
- > Key Note Speaker: Jenn Chrisler Family Equality
- > Sue Hyde - Cambridge Pride Community Recognition
- > Awards:
 - > Libby Bouvier, The History Project
 - > Joanne Shapiro, Cambridge Police Department
 - > Richard Juang, Interfaith Coalition
 - > Arthur Lipkin, Rose Lipkin Award:
 - > Maya Ridders DeBorst, CRLS Student
 - > Valerie Jane Bryant, CRLS Student
 - > Elizabeth Eastwood, CRLS Student

Next Steps: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 27th @ 9 AM. Spread the invitation far and wide and get ready to march!

3. Sub-committee Updates

a. Cambridge Police Department (Colby Berger): A second round of GLBT Awareness trainings will wrap up next week – which means that all current CPD officers have participated in the past year (1st round of trainings was held in Fall '07.) We await the results of follow-up surveys by CPD officers on this training (via ally Joanne Shapiro- who will be presented with an award at Pride Brunch for her great assistance on the CPD Training initiative.)

Next Steps: We need to encourage CPD to incorporate GLBT Awareness as part of the basic CPD training rotation, not a one-off “fad” training. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of establishing a “Training and Education” subcommittee to address similar gaps in the training of EMTs, Firefighters, House of Corrections administrators, etc... The next “GLBT Town Meeting” process could inform us as to community need in this regard.

b. GLBT Elders (John Gintell): John created a draft last year that outlines a proposed project regarding the needs of GLBT elders and how they are treated in the various forms of housing (assisted living, nursing homes, and senior housing, public and private) and how they are treated at the various Cambridge health services (e.g. Cambridge Health Alliance hospital and neighborhood clinics, Mt Auburn Hospital, Harvard Vanguard, and other such institutions in Cambridge.) As to make efficient progress on this project would clearly require more than volunteer efforts, we hope to use the proposal as a basis for why our commission really needs a paid staff person (Executive Director) to work on and oversee this and future important, though labor- intensive initiatives.

Next Steps: There is a current city dialogue about elders “aging in place” and the sub-committee should consider building the concerns of GLBT elders into this discussion!

c. Education (Bob Parlin): Bob gave a summary of how things went this spring as the commission advocated for an increase in hours for the P10East (high school GSA) coordinator position, in order to increase the scope of the work that could be done (current P10 coordinator Kathy Keegan had outlined possibilities for further work contingent on expanding the position.) As CRLS Principal Chris Saheed had another priority this year (the need to address racial tension at the high school perhaps via a “diversity coordinator,”) and as the school committee was divisive, and as the budget was as tight as it ever is- our initiative did not make it into the first draft of the school budget and was ultimately unsuccessful.

Next Steps: Superintendent Thomas Fowler-Finn will be replaced by September '09 (in time for the FY10 school year) and our new Mayor Denise Simmons heads the school committee. The Education sub-committee will consider bringing up the P10E initiative again, early in next year’s budget hearing process. Commissioners discussed the importance of GLBT awareness into the K-8 school levels and also the idea of working with other school including area charter schools.

d. Formation of Sub-committees: Attendees joined the sub-committees as follows (leaders are in bold):

Police Department: Colby, Jeff, Liliana, Monika, Richard S., Sarav, **Toni**

Elders: **John**, Mal (? thinking about it,) Neal

Education: **Bob**, Lesley, Liliana, Mal, Monika, Priscilla

GLBT Operations: John, **Lesley**, Richard S.

Events (Pride, OUTfest, Town Mtg...): Chris, **Jeff**, Mal, Priscilla, Sarav

Publicity: **Chris**, Neal, Tony

Next Steps: Priscilla will speak with Richard Juang about which sub-committee(s) he will participate on. Priscilla will draft and distribute a list of committee member contact info and subcommittee leaders will contact their members to convene a meeting soon.

We also discussed the possibility of future subcommittees to deal specifically with "Health" (Liliana) and "Workplace" (Sarav) issues.