February 22, 2010 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

I. Call to Order

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> John Gintell, Sarav Chithambaram, Bob Parlin, Steven Lee, Mal Malme, Priscilla Lee, Toni Snow, Kevin Shpritzer, Jeff Walker, Colby Berger, Leslie Phillips, Tony Wieczorek.

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u> (excused) Mallory SoRelle, Julia Pallotta and (unexcused) Leslie Philips and Richard Juang

<u>Guests:</u> Laura Waldon, U.S. Census, Supt. Chris Burke and Lt. Stephen Ahern, Cambridge Police Dept.

- II. Motion to Accept Agenda: Passed.
- III. Motion to Accept Minutes from January 25, 2010 meeting: Passed.
- IV. Introduction and Welcome to Steven Lee: New commission member.
- V. Review of Designs for Commission Brochure: Design selected

VI. Census Outreach Event – March 20th -- Boston Roller Derby Dames

At Shriner's Auditorium in Wilmington 5-9:00pm. Tote bags, printed with "Everyone Counts in Cambridge" and census literature will be handed out at event. Kevin S., Toni S. and Bob P. will attend.

Plans were also discussed for distribution of tote bags at Harvest Coop, 1369 Coffee House and Cambridge Public Health Dept. Will firm up details at March 25th meeting.

VII. 2010 Census

Laura Waldon gave overview of coming census and its importance for GLBT community. Census 2010 will be historic in counting same sex partnerships for the first time. While there are no specific sexual orientation questions on the form, data on same sex partnerships will be captured indirectly. Laura described the census schedule and extensive follow up procedures for non-responders.

Jeff W. reported that Cambridge had a low response rate in the 2000 Census. This time the city formed a Complete Count Committee and will post a zip code tracker on city web site with running tallies. Perhaps election commission director Marsha Weinerman could attend our next meeting.

Supt. Burke suggested that Cambridge Police could add a notice to its website re how citizens can verify authenticity of census workers. Police are also undertaking door-to-door visits in neighborhoods and can drop off census materials.

VIII. Education Update

<u>Charter School Outreach</u> -- Priscilla L.: Visit from Prospect Hill Charter School representative is postponed until March meeting. Bob P.: Still trying to connect with Cambridge Charter School representative.

<u>P10E/Rindge and Latin HS</u>: John G. attended monthly meeting at P10E. The Nat'l Day of Silence is on April 16, but CRLS will celebrate it on April 15 due to school vacation week. Ed Byrne (Diversity Coordinator) and Desiree Philips (P10East faculty coordinator) will work with students for an Assembly to publicize the planned activities.

At the March 9th school committee meeting which is open to public comment someone should talk about need for funding for Family Liaison and Project 10 East. Toni Snow volunteered.

IX. Self Defense Event

<u>Spring 2010</u> – Mal M: Youth focused – 15 participants. Will advertise/recruit from P10E and the Youth Centers.

X. Gender Neutral Bathrooms in Public Buildings

The Commission is interested in recommending a policy, but research is needed first. Commissioner Steven Lee will follow up. Harvard has implemented a policy and should be contacted on this issue.

XI. Outreach

<u>Banner</u>: Tony W. will work on banner now that we have logo. Need to find funds to pay for it – John G. will make a request to the City Manager for this.

<u>Riverfest and Pride</u>: Mayor Simmons' order last year requested that the City resolve a conflict of scheduling the Cambridge Riverfest and Gay Pride events. This was done and the respective dates for 2010 are June 5 and June 12. Commission volunteers to oversee table at Riverfest include Toni S., Mal M., Bob P., Kevin S., Sarav C. and possibly John G.

<u>Pride Committee:</u> We will work with the Mayor's office on Pride – John G. will contact them and Commission will set up a committee,

Gay and Gray Breakfast: John G. and Jeff W. attended event sponsored by Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (SCES), the LGBT Aging Project and Cambridge Senior Center. About 20 people attended. Commission distributed Census bags and learned of initial plans for monthly dinner that would be a good opportunity for community building; the feedback was good and planning will continue. The Commission should plug into this.

<u>Elder Fair</u>: SCES will sponsor an Elder Fair, April 20th 9:00-2:00. Sarav C. will attend. Somerville has a LGBT Liaison (John G. met her) and a more formal contact should be established). The Commission needs to work on getting more visibility on the Web and in local newspapers such as the Cambridge Chronicle.

XII. Public Safety: Slow progress is being made on Goal training with CFD and EMTs. Toni S. and John G. will meet with Chief Persson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.