



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, May 2, 2013

Present: Commissioners Elaine Angelone, Chanta Bhan, Bonita Cox, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Caitlin Goss, Randa Shedid, and City staff Vali Buland, Mariah Freark and Nancy Schlacter.

Guests: Police Superintendent Chris Burke, guest speaker Jane Chiang.

Absent: Commissioners Matthew Barrett, Mercedes Evans, Brendan St. Amant and Adrian Velazquez.

Documents Used:

- April 2013 minutes
- Transgender resources list

1. Call to order

Chair Bonita Cox called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Public comment was reserved for agenda item number 5.

3. Review and Approval of April Minutes

The April minutes were approved. Commissioner Shedid moved to approve and Commissioner Angelone seconded (Commissioners Angelone, Bhan, Cox, Goss and Shedid with Commissioner Gonzalez abstaining).

4. Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Buland informed the Commissioners that Nancy Schlacter has been appointed Executive Director, and that there will be a transition period over the next few weeks. Acting Executive Director Buland reported on staff activities.

5. Guest speaker Jane Chiang about participation in foreign-language immersion programs

Ms. Chiang brought three other CPS parents and two CPS teachers, who gave a joint presentation about foreign-language immersion programs in the Cambridge Public Schools. A discussion was had.

6. Follow-up on shelter survey/transgender outreach

Commissioner Bhan informed the Commission that she put together a list of resources from New York and would be willing to call about specifics if other people were interested. A discussion was had about how to use this information. The Commissioners agreed to put this issue on next month's agenda.

Further discussion was then had about the guests' presentation. Commissioner Shedid made a motion that the Commission write, email or otherwise communicate to the parents, thank them for coming, say that we are interested in outreach, this is what we do, and say that if they have any suggestions we invite the parents to present them to us. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. The motion was approved (Commissioners Angelone, Bhan, Cox, Gonzalez, Goss and Shedid.)

Commissioner Gonzalez then made a motion that if we continue to work on this issue, we should discuss outreach. Commissioner Bhan seconded this motion. The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Angelone, Bhan, Cox, Gonzalez, Goss and Shedid).

7. New business

Commissioner Gonzalez stated that she wants to invite the previously discussed speaker about digital Fourth Amendment rights. Acting Executive Director Buland requested that Commissioner Gonzalez email her the organization's information.

A brief discussion was held about Secure Communities.

Acting Executive Director Buland said that she will draft a follow-up letter to Ms. Chiang.

Commissioner Goss announced that she is moving out of the country in August, and so will need to resign from the Commission. The Commissioners expressed their congratulations and appreciation to Commissioner Goss.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. Next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m.