

**February 26, 2015 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015**

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the February 26 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the January 22 meeting were approved.

**Commissioners Present:** Anna Weick, Jessica Daniels, John Gintell, Mal Malme, Maya Escobar, Mike McKenna, Paul Miller, Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee, Lesley Phillips, Kevin Shpritzer

**Commissioners Absent:** (excused) – Kara Smith, Kristina Mastropasqua, LaTayna Purnell, Maggie Giles, Aren Stone, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Bill Barnert, Bob Parlin

**Guests:** Daniel Blomquist (Journalism student from Emerson College), Harry Reyes Nieva (Human Rights Commission), Chris Burke (Superintendent of Cambridge Police), Russ Wolf (student at Northeastern), Josh Reyes

**I. Welcome**

- a. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

**II. Police Report**

- a. Superintendent Burke welcomed the new members.
- b. The police department is undergoing staffing changes and are hiring for a number of positions.
- c. They are hoping to hire social work interns.

**III. Future Events**

- a. Possible spring (April or May) event: Mal presented the book that her spouse contributed to entitled *Untangling the Knot*.
  - i. The publishers are looking for organizations to put on local events promoting the book and its content.
  - ii. Topics covered in the book include marriage equality and gender identity, among others.
  - iii. The Commission decided to sponsor the event.
  - iv. Mal will take the lead on organizing this event.
  - v. Maya will work with her.
- b. Pride Brunch will be June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- c. October – *True Colors* documentary – commission agreed about co-sponsorship with the Somerville LGBTQ Liaison.
- d. LGBT Teachers Event
  - i. Paul talked with Ed Byrne about this event.
  - ii. Possible dates are 3/24, 3/25, 3/31
  - iii. Daedalus is a possible venue. 3:30pm proposed start time to accommodate teachers' schedules.

- iv. Bill and Bob will help with publicity for the event.
- v. Paul confirmed that some commissioners would be available to attend the meeting.
- vi. We discussed the *possible* programming that would occur at this event.
  - 1. Welcome from Commission
  - 2. Welcome from Mayor's Office
  - 3. Ed Byrne talking about GSAs
- vii. Details will be finalized at the March meeting.

#### IV. **Cultural Competency Training**

- a. The Commission has been working with the City Manager's office and Chris Burke to get LGBTQ cultural competency training for all city workers.
- b. Chris Burke, John, Aren, Taha Jennings (Aide to City Manager), Jackie Philips (Director of Training for the city) met yesterday to discuss this.
- c. The City is committed to the implementation of this training and is open to suggestions for how to design the class/program.
- d. Anyone with suggestions or ideas should share them. More discussion on the topic should occur at the next meeting. After that there will be another planning meeting.
- e. SpeakOut, Fenway Health, the Human Rights Campaign were all suggested as resources.
- f. Grace Anne Stevens is local and does trainings. <http://www.gendervarianceeducation.com/>

#### V. **Human Rights Commission – Collaboration**

- a. Harry reported that the Human Rights Commission would like to increase collaboration with the GLBT Commission.
- b. Harry has a project that he's proposing and looking for support with:
  - i. He would like local health care providers to collect data on sexual orientation and gender identity, in the same way that they collect other demographic data such as race, ethnicity and income.
  - ii. The collection of this data would help track risk factors, care disparity, and other issues specifically affecting those in the LGBT community.
- c. John supported the idea of collaboration with the Human Rights Commission.
- d. The Human Right Commission meetings are 6-8pm on the first Thursday of each month at 51 Inman St. and Commissioners are encouraged to attend if able.

#### VI. **Seniors Health Care project**

- a. John reported on the progress of Elysia Chandler, the Commission's intern. Aren, John, Nancy Schlacter, and Taha Jennings have been having meetings with Elysia on a regular basis.
- b. She will likely have her report ready for review at the March meeting.

#### VII. **LGBT Oral History Project**

- a. The Commission discussed whether or not to work with historian Sarah Boyer to put together an LGBT oral history of Cambridge.
- b. The medium of this project (book, blog, website, etc.) was discussed.
- c. Sarah will likely attend the next meeting to present her ideas. The Commission would like a concrete proposal.

#### VIII. **ElderFair 2015 – Wednesday, April 15 – 9am – 1pm**

- a. Holiday Inn: Boston-Bunker Hill, 30 Washington St, Somerville, MA

- b. We could potentially have a table at this event or just attend and mingle. No-one attending volunteered to coordinate; several people said they could attend.
- c. Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services puts on the event.
- d. The description on the event's website states that it's "an exciting and informative event for older people and their caregivers in Somerville, Cambridge, and surrounding communities. It features various exhibitors, health and wellness information, free health screenings, and resources.
- e. March 7<sup>th</sup> is the posted deadline to apply.

**IX. LGBT Elders in an Ever-Changing World conference**

- i. Friday, March 20, 2015 – 8:30am – 4:30pm
- ii. Salem State University
- iii. "The conference is co-sponsored by Salem State University School of Social Work, North Shore Elder Services, Care Dimensions, and the LGBT Aging Project of The Fenway in Boston."
- iv. Attendance is \$95 or \$45 for seniors. Commissioners who attend can be reimbursed from our budget.

**X. Announcements**

**XI. Public Comment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm