

# **LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Minutes**

## **February 23, 2017**

*In attendance:* Susan Bernstein, Rachel Oppenheimer, Aren Stone, Maya Escobar, Kimm Topping, Jessica Daniels, John Gintell, Silas Weiner, Greg MacDonough, Noe Kamelamela, Devontae Freeland, Kate Grams, Linda Daniels, Bill Barnert, Abby Duker  
*Excused absence:* Mal Malme, Anna Weick, Steven Lee, Bob Parlin *Unexcused:* Lesley Phillips

- **Welcome/Introductions**

Welcomed new commissioners, Silas Weiner, Kate Grams, Abby Duker, Noe Kamelamela, Greg MacDonough, and Devontae Freeland!

- **Approved Agenda**

- **Approved December Minutes**

- **Police Report** : Det. Brian O'Connor, LGBTQ+ Commission Police Dept. Liaison w/ Acting Police Commissioner Brent Larrabee

-Search for new Police Commissioner:

Police Commissioner Search Committee open forums:

March 2, 6-8PM (Cambridge Rindge and Latin)

March 4, 10AM-12PM (Cambridge Senior Center)

March 3, for Commissions and Cambridge Non-Profit Organizations. John will attend.

Police Executive Research Forum in Washington, D.C. conducts initial search, narrows list to 8-15 candidates. Final 3-5 candidates vetted by the public in May, hoping for a June/July hire. City Manager does the final hiring, Acting Commissioner Larrabee stressed importance of keeping relationships with city commissions in place.

-Det. O'Connor attending a Boston Police LGBT Committee meeting on March 16.

-May 22: Police Academy/ Gay Officers Action League (GOAL) LGBTQ cultural competency training for all new recruits, including all Cambridge recruits.

-Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Training for all Cambridge city employees: evaluation and recommendations of the training organizations sent to the City Manager for his final decision.

- **Name Change**

-Need to make list of what will need to be reprinted/reissued/redesigned. There are physical items like the events tablecloth, business cards, swag, and our social media presence (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

-Also need to alert any resource and contact information listing the Commission.

-Communications committee will begin to look at this at their next meeting. Linda and Noe volunteered to join this committee.

-New handouts needed by March.

- **Budget**

-Diversity Training: expenses for trainer and food. Committee agreed we should approach the city for additional funds, as we already have to consider the expense this year of replacing our publicity materials because of name change.

- **Future Events**

April 13 -- Town Meeting. Have not received any updates from the Mayor on what's scheduled.

April 12, 9:00AM-12:00PM --Somerville/Cambridge Elder Fair is an annual wellness and resources fair held at the Holiday Inn on Washington St. in Somerville. John and Elysia Chandler (Commission Research Intern) will be tabling; Kate volunteered to join.

May 7 -- Mayfair. Jessica is the lead for this event. Commission will be staffing a table from 12:00-4:00PM. Two people needed for each shift. Please save the date and await details!

LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers and Immigrants event proposal -- Linda and Bill will be attending the Cambridge Commission on Immigrant Rights March 16 meeting to talk about cosponsoring this event.

June 10 -- Pride Brunch. Bill, Silas, Jessica, Aren, John, and Susan volunteered for this committee. Need to meet with Mayor's liaison, Jeff Walker. It was suggested that the awards ceremony include a remembrance for Renae Gray and Kate Thomas. Commissioners can send ideas for Recognition Award recipients to Aren.

- **Training on +**

Scheduled for our March meeting. Kimm and her partner Minh will conduct the training. Will extend meeting to two hours, from 6:00 -8:00. Training will include reviewing terminology and practice responses to questions.

- **Diversity Training**

The Commission would like to go into executive session for this training. John will investigate how this works. Training will last two hours and include discussion of implicit bias; racial enactments (pop culture, stereotypes); why it is hard to discuss race; self-awareness homework; fishbowl exercise; how the training relates to the work of the Commission.

Linda will send out Doodle poll to determine best time for 2nd session. \*\*Since this writing, it was decided to postpone diversity training until the fall when we will have more time to devote\*\*

- **Committee Reports**

Communications: Swag with our old name on it going to Y2Y youth overnight homeless shelter and Youth on Fire daytime drop in youth homeless shelter. Communications committee will meet to discuss PR updates with name change. Linda and Noe volunteered to join committee. New handouts needed by March event.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms: Need to form new committee to meet with Taha Jennings, Aide to the City Manager. John has already met with Taha to discuss next steps. Taha is working on setting up a meeting with pertinent people in the city. Rachel, Kimm, Kate, and Bill joining this committee.

Our existing committees are: Communications, Diversity, Gender Neutral Bathrooms. New committees are also formed to plan events. Reviewed open meeting laws.

- **Public Comment/Announcements/Adjournment**

**Next Meeting -- March 23, 2017**