

## GLBT Commission Minutes – April 23, 2015

6:00 - 7:30 PM

- Present: John Gintell (chairing), Paul Miller, Rachel Oppenheiner, Steven Lee, Mike McKenna, Mal Malme, Aren Stone, Bill Barnert, Jessica Daniels, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Lesley Phillips
- Excused absent: Maya Escobar, Bob Parlin, Kevin Shpritzer, Anna Weick, Kristina Mastropasqua, Maggie Giles, LaTayna Purnell, Kara Smith

Guest: Sara Boyer

Welcome/Introductions

Approve / Modify Agenda - ACCEPTED

Approve Minutes from March Meeting – APPROVED.

### LGBT Senior Housing and Marriage Equality Project (Sara Boyer)

Sara brought flyers about a Public Hearing on the need for Affordable LGBT-Friendly Senior Housing (in Boston)

- Thursday, May 7, 2015, 1:30 pm, Boston City Hall, Ianella Chamber (5<sup>th</sup> floor)

They need transgender City of Boston residents who would be willing to testify. Sara will contact MTPC, Others should please contact friends, etc., and have them contact Sara Boyer at [SaraBoya8@gmail.com](mailto:SaraBoya8@gmail.com).

Neil M-B & Sara met to talk about the Marriage Equality Project, pairing her skills as an oral historian & Neil's as a film documentarian. They are looking at what they can do & how they can raise money. Let them know if you know of any organizations that would want to partner with them.

### Future Event Planning:

- May 3, noon-6: **MayFair** – Volunteers needed for table – Kevin Shpritzer coordinating 4-6 people needed. Email Kevin if you can.  
If not enough volunteers are available we can close the booth early.  
It will be a great opportunity to publicize "*Untangling the Knot*" event
- May 14, 6:30-9: A reading and panel discussion from the new book *Untangling the Knot: Queer Voices on Marriage, Relationships, and Identity* – at Cambridge YWCA  
Mal, Maya & Anna are producing this. The event will be at the YWCA in Central Square. Some food has been donated, they are looking for more. Mal brought postcards & flyers for distribution. Please share the Facebook event\*. Rev. Irene Monroe will write a piece in Bay Windows. \$204.86 spent on printing 250 postcards & 50 flyers.  
Other ideas for publicity to maximize attendance were discussed- using press release, etc.
- May 16, 10-4: **Youth Pride** volunteers needed for table – Bob Parlin coordinating. Email Bob if you can.
- June 6, noon-6: **Cambridge River Festival** – Kevin Shpritzer coordinating 4-6 people needed. Email Kevin if you can.
- June 13: **Pride Brunch** (25th anniversary)  
Sub-committee has met twice. Ed Byrne, John, Aren (Maya & Maggie were unable to attend). Ed is taking care of food & bus. (Note: Let's try to get a handicapped-accessible bus.) Possible 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative gift. Because it is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Ed will try to create a display of memorabilia. If you have any, let Ed know. Mal & Neil will emcee.

We need to print postcards for the event, but we don't know yet if we will be paying for

them or the Mayor's office.

**Bayard Rustin Award:** Aren & Neil will contact previous Bayard Rustin award winners to set up a meeting to discuss possible nominees.

**Recognition Awards:** We discussed several possibilities.

Mike will send an email reminding everyone how to get access to the Commission's Google Calendar.

**October event:** Ellen Brodsky's True Colors documentary: "*The Year we Thought About Love*"

Date not set, but we want to keep mentioning in the minutes until it happens.

- (Note: After the meeting, Jessica told us there would be a showing of *The Year we Thought About Love* this Sat, Apr 25 at 12:00 Noon in the main theater at the Somerville Theater, as part of the Boston International Film Festival.)

### **LGBT Teacher's Event Report**

Event went well. About 20+ people. Bob Parlin spoke & gave some great remarks about LGBT educators, advocacy, and history. Great networking event. Many CRLS educators who did not know each other before had the chance to meet.

Of those that signed in & a few more I (Bill) recall off the top of my head, there were:

- 10 from CRLS
- 2 from BB&N
- 2 from the Rindge Ave Upper School
- 1 from the Putnam Ave Upper School
- 1 from CCSC
- 1 from Amigos (Bilingual K-8)
- 1 from Hagerty School (Elementary)
- plus Melody Brazo from Central Administration, two from the Mayor's Office and a handful of Commissioners.

### **Youth Committee report**

- We created an email list, **QFEd-Cambridge** (Queer-Friendly Educators in Cambridge) to facilitate organization among the teachers. Everyone who signed in at the event was invited, plus anyone we knew about who was invited but didn't come, plus all Commissioners.
- Bill will post photos of the event on Facebook. If anyone has any better than Bill took, send them to him.
- Future plans: Mostly, we want to encourage the teachers to do more, perhaps regular presentation to each other, etc., but to let them organize & host them. We also want to encourage (but not plan) multi-school gatherings (like inviting all to the CRLS Assembly).
- Once the list is populated, we will ask the list what date works best for the Teacher Appreciation event next year, perhaps Teacher Appreciation Week, perhaps the week just before the students show up. (Jessica added at the Commission meeting that the private schools get out later, and Harvard Square may not be the best location for teachers coming in from other areas.)

### **Cultural Competency Training and Gender Neutral Bathroom status**

John & Aren met with the Aide to the City Manager, Chris Burke, and the City Training Manager and they are committed to city employee LGBTQ cultural competency training. The issue now is how to determine what the curriculum should be, and who will teach it. Several possibilities have been identified.

Taha Jennings (City Manager's office) is creating a list of city buildings and their bathroom configurations. John and others will followup.

**Senior's Health Care** project report

Our intern, Elysia Chandler, is working on a final report. Final report will be distributed by email several weeks before the next meeting, so we can start thinking about what we want to do with the survey data.

Aren, John, and possibly two other Commissioners will be attending a City Manager-sponsored meeting on May 6 of several Commissions to share information and ideas for future collaboration.

Neil suggested that we more systematically review our history and plan our future projects. We formed a Strategic Planning subcommittee of Neil, Steven, John, and Lesley. More Commissioners are welcome to join.

Public Comment/Announcements/Adjournment

- **Memorial Service for Marcia Deihl** this Saturday, April 25, 2 pm at Old Cambridge Baptist Church
- **Solve the Puzzle: LGBT Financial & Legal Update** - 6-8:30 next Wed. April 29, at the Fenway

**Next Meeting:** Thursday May 28, 6-7:30, Windsor Street Community Health Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 119 Windsor St., Cambridge.

Next month's first agenda item will be whether we should keep our shortened meeting time of 6:00-7:30.

\**Untangling the Knot* Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1021647631202175/>