

LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: January 26, 2017

Commissioners in attendance: Aren Stone, John Gintell, Mal Malme, Rachel Oppenheimer, Anna Weick, Kimm Topping, Bill Barnert, Susan Bernstein, Bob Parlin, Steven Lee, Linda Daniels, Lesley Phillips, Maya Escobar
Absent: Jessica Daniels

Also attending: Detective Brian O'Connor (Police Department liaison); Lucy Murray Brown (Cambridge Police Review and Advisory Board); Elysia Chandler (LGBTQ+ Commission researcher); Silas Weiner, Kevin McLellan, Kate Grahams, Abby Duker, Isabelle, Devontae Freeland, Michelle, Susie (all Cambridge residents)

Additions to agenda:

- Social media posting guidelines
- Honoring Renae Gray; create committee?

Minutes:

- Approved minutes from December meeting

Police Report (Brian O'Connor):

- Acting Police Brent Larabee would like to attend February meeting.
- Final evaluations of trainers for SOGI training on Monday, January 30
- Police exams for prospective officers on March 25. Informational Open House on February 6 from 6:00-7:30PM at Cambridge Police Station. Aren suggested that Commission cross-posts this to Facebook.
- Sending congratulations to Chris Burke on his retirement; suggestion that he be nominated as Marshal for 2018 Pride March.

Guest from Police Review and Advisory Board (Lucy Murray Brown):

- The PR&A Board is an independent civilian oversight agency that reviews complaints against the Cambridge Police Department. While these complaints are not anonymous, this service is intended to provide a resource to those who would otherwise feel uncomfortable or unsafe making a complaint directly to the Police Department. ESL interpretative services available. The Board makes the final determination on whether or not they agree with a review, and may also call for further action.
- If anyone has further questions, please contact Lucy Murray Brown. Aren has her contact information.

Possible Future Events, Brainstorming:

- Event for LGBTQ asylum seekers. There is a Worcester organization that provides assistance. The city's Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship might also be a partner; Linda and Bill will contact Nancy Schlacter, Executive Director of that Commission.
- Another Rainbow Room event, given the success of the November YWCA event. Mal in the discussion phase with artists and performers.
- A film event

Pride Brunch:

- Aren and John met with Jeff Walker. City is suggesting Pride Event , *Out Proud and Loud*. This would be a music event as part of the Cambridge River Fest on June 3. Mal will contact the Cambridge Arts Council about this possibility.
- The Mayor has also requested the Commission's participation in a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, April 13 from 6-8PM. This might be an alternative venue to present the Bayard Rustin Award, and other LGBTQ awards.
- After discussion, consensus to continue Pride Brunch event, with emphasis on drawing in younger audience. Thinking is that if the brunch is dropped, it will be very difficult to bring it back; better to work on adapting what we already have.
- John and Aren give this information to Jeff. We will form a committee at our next meeting.

LGBT Senior Housing - Policy and Practices project (Elysia Chandler)

- Cambridge Housing Authority report is now public on the City website; thinking of ways to promote it further.
- Elysia created a story map prototype of best practices for supporting LGBTQ seniors in housing and health care and looking for feedback; will figure out how to make this available to view. The city has the story map account and will make final approval before it goes live.
- Suggestion to include resources for families and caregivers on how to advocate for the elders in their care.
- 55+ vs. 60+ -- definition of "senior" depends on the service. Our reports use 60+.

LGBT Youth After School Activities – Policies and Practices project (Elysia Chandler)

- Conducting anonymous survey among youth workers working with K-12 youth in programs outside of the School Department.
- 45 responses at time of meeting.
- Elysia promoted the survey at a workshop Kimm gave for Youth Services workers on Inclusive Programming.
- Elysia met with Youth Services director; on February 3 attending a meeting with all Youth Center heads.
- Survey available from Aren and John.

Diversity Training plans

- The Diversity Committee thinks that two hours is insufficient for effective training. Linda conducts these trainings and doesn't think we can cover enough in two hours.
- Two sessions of two hours each is best practice for absorbing material, allows for discussion.
- All in favor of four-hour training.
- March and May meetings were originally designated for LGBTQ+ training and diversity training with a focus on race, respectively. Decision to keep those dates and figure out when to schedule the additional two hours. Decision to set that date at next meeting when new commissioners are present.

Communications - WebSite

New and improved City website due up in late February. Some Commissioners will get training to be able to update our page.

Civic Unity Committee meeting

John, Aren, Jessica, and Maya attended. Steven was there as well, as he serves on this Committee! Great chance to meet folks from other organizations in the City and open the door towards further collaboration.

New Commissioners status

12 applicants; two dropped out. Six openings. Final review by interview committee; decisions to be made after meeting. ***New Commissioners have been announced as of this writing.***

Public Comment/Announcements/Adjournment

- Free tickets to TranScripts at the ART for CRLS students & families, February 2. Discussion to follow.
- Black Lives Matter Boston Event, February 12, 2PM at Arlington Street Church (event is on Facebook).
- Somerville/Cambridge Elder Fair, April 12. John has reserved a table spot for the Commission.

Next Meeting – February 23