

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Minutes September 23, 2021 6:00-7:00PM

Commissioners Attending: Bill Barnert, Susan Bernstein, Soltan Bryce, John Gintell, Kate Grams, Linden Huhmann, Noelani Kamelamela, Steven Lee, Gregory MacDonough, Lauryn McNair, Nefyn Meissner, Rachel Oppenheimer, Lesley Phillips, and Aren Stone. Commission Research Associate Amelia Joselow also attended.

Commissioners Absent: Bob Bordone, Noelani Gabriel, Warner Santiago, and Cameron Van Fossen. Katy Harrison is on a leave of absence through November

Introductions

Minute Taker: Noelani Kamelamela

Minutes from July were approved

Modified and Approved Current Agenda

Report from Amelia (Amelia Joselow)

- LGBTQ+ Community Center: First draft of report for the City Manager's office is almost ready to send, pending input from the Commission. We have scheduled input for October's meeting.
- All Gender Bathrooms: No big update since last month, construction is currently happening in City Hall for at least one or two bathrooms. Going to work on public mapping of all gender restrooms available at businesses. Planning to meet public business liaisons regarding mapping for both small and bigger businesses in Cambridge.

Alliance (Susan Bernstein edit to original agenda line item title) of Local Groups & Partners (Bill Barnert)

- Cambridge Men's Group, Arlington Rainbow Commission, LexPride, Lexington LGBTQ+ Commission, The Dance Complex, The Arlington Center for the Arts, Cambridge Public Schools, SpeakOUT, the History Project, Newfound Fire and Cambridge Health, Belmont LGBTQ Alliance – these are the current groups we might consider incorporating into an alliance for marketing, resource sharing, etc. Some groups were able to work with us for the Starlight Square event on September 11, 2021---there could be more we could do together.
- Lauren McNair suggested that we coordinate announcements, mailings, and social media outreach.

Reports from Working Groups

- **Communications** (Bill Barnert)—will try to coordinate more communications with the Alliance
- **Diversity** (Rachel Oppenheimer)—working on final draft of language for recruitment
- **Events** (Amelia Joselow)
 - Must run everything by the Budget Office regarding events for payment in advance
 - Potential partnering with the Disability Commission for a potential panelist event. Amelia will be attending a Zoom meeting next Thursday.
 - Looking into Oktoberfest tabling.
 - Carnival Event September 12: Tabling went well, most people who interacted were excited to see our table.

- **Public Health & Safety** (Nefyn Meissner) The next working group meeting needs to be scheduled. Branville Bard has left the CPD and former Superintendent Christine Elow is serving as interim CPD Commissioner.
- **Recruiting** (Steven Lee) We are in need of people to join this working group to recruit new folks to the Commission ASAP. We are in need of ideas for who to advertise to and how to spread the word. This is a good opportunity for newer Commissioners who may not have joined a working group yet.

Future Meetings & Events

- Oktoberfest October 21
- National Coming Out Day October 11
- Trans Day of Remembrance November 20
- Bill may reach out to the Alliance to see if there are plans in the works for NCO and TDoR

Public Comment / Announcements

- Susan Bernstein gave kudos to Nefyn Meissner for their talents as a facilitator today.
- Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee, and Nefyn Meissner gave extended kudos to both John and Aren, who have given many years, much time, and a lot of energy to the Commission.
- Nefyn shared that Katy Harrison has taken a leave of absence through November

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 28, 2021