

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Minutes October 28, 2021

Attendance:

COMMISSIONERS	Present?	COMMISSIONERS	Present?	STAFF	Present?
Aren Stone	Y	Linden Huhmann	Y	Jennifer Mathews	Y
Bill Barnert	Y	Nefyn Meissner	Y	Amelia Joselow	Y
Bob Bordone	Y	Noelani Gabriel	Y		
Cameron Van Fossen	Y	Noelani Kamelamela	N	GUESTS	
Gregory MacDonough	Y	Rachel Oppenheimer	N		
John Gintell	Y	Soltan Bryce	Y		
Kate Grams	Y	Steven Lee	N		
Katy Harrison	LoA	Susan Bernstein	N		
Lauryn McNair	Y	Warner Santiago	Y		
Lesley Phillips	Y				

Welcome

Minute Taker – Bill Barnert

Introductions

Approve Minutes from September – Approved

Approve / Modify Agenda

Report from Amelia Joselow

- **LGBTQ+ Community Center** (*later in agenda: see below*)

NOTE: Three of the four commissioners on this team are resigning after 2021, so if anyone wants to join, let Amelia know.

- **All Gender Bathrooms**

Some preparation for reaching out to businesses; need legal opinion about whether an Ordinance is possible.

- **LGBTQ/disability intersection**

Amelia & Rachel Tanenhuas from the Disability Commission have been working together to find a way for the two commissions to work on some kind of project on the intersection between disability & LGBTQ+.

Brief reports:

- **Confederation of Local Groups & Partners, and TDoR (Transgender Day of Remembrance) Plans (Bill Barnert)**

Building in the alliance among many groups that worked together on the Starlight Square events, we are in the process of forming some kind of loose alliance between local LGBTQ+ groups. Currently, members from the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission; LexPride & the Lexington Human Rights Commission; the Arlington LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission; Belmont Against Racism: LGBTQ Alliance; the Network for Social Justice; the Somerville LGBTQ+ Liaison; & Greater Boston PFLAG are working on events for the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR).

Preparation for co-chair voting at November Meeting

- Vote will be in November for two new co-chairs.
If anyone is interested let Nefyn and John know.

Quick review of Working Groups – status – chairs

- **Communications** (Bill Barnert) – Newsletter sent out & TDoR events posted to Facebook & Twitter
- **All-Gender Bathrooms** (Noe Kamelamela) – *(See above.)*
- **Diversity** (Rachel Oppenheimer) – Nothing to report
- **Events** (Amelia Joselow) – See TDoR report above
- **City Forms** (Amelia Joselow) – This Working Group has gone on hiatus after accomplishing its tasks.
- **Public Health & Safety** (Nefyn Meissner) –
Acting Police Commissioner Christine Elow will join us at a meeting some time after the New Year. She is also looking for a BIPOC LGBTQ+ rep to serve on a committee she is facilitating. Soltan Bryce said that he'd be interested.
Nefyn will work to transition leadership of the Working Group before their term ends.
- **Recruitment** (Steven Lee) – Although Steven is resigning at the end of the year, he will help recruit for 2022. There are 6 (possibly 7) open seats starting in 2022. Even though some terms end in various months, we will reset so that all resignations and all new appointments are effective 1/31/2022. Here are the opening seats:

Aren Stone	2023-01-31	2022-01-20	1
	Resigned		
Jessica Daniels	2021-07-22	2022-01-20	2
Susan Bernstein	2024-01-31	2022-01-20	2
John Gintell	2025-01-31	2022-01-20	3
Nefyn Meisner	2025-01-31	2022-01-20	3
Steven Lee	2025-01-31	2022-01-20	3
Kathryn Harrison (*?)	2025-01-31	2022-01-20	3

*Katy is now based in Philadelphia, so may need to be replaced.

NOTE: The official city database has some errors in it, so does not agree with this table 100%. John, Bill & Jennifer need to straighten this out. We have standardized on new commissioner start dates as Jan 20th, which makes them commissioners in time for the third Thursday in January meeting of every year.

- **Strategic Planning** (Steven Lee) – Needs a new chair, and should soon start thinking about the future.
- **Youth Group** (Noe Kamelamela) – Nothing to report
- **Budget** – With Steven (our treasurer) leaving the Commission, we have re-assigned the tasks of the Treasurer & Budget Working Group to Amelia.
- **Handbook** – Probably needs an update, but Jessica Daniels was the only person listed in the Working Group, and she is no longer on the Commission. The handbook states :
 “This manual should be reviewed annually by the Commission, either as a whole or by a designated Working Group.”
- **Pride Brunch** – Although there will likely not be a Boston Pride in 2022, we may still want to have our Pride Brunch.

Presentation of plans for LGBTQ+ Community Center (Amelia)

Amelia presented the PowerPoint presentation that she plans to show to the City Manager to get buy-in on the LGBTQ+ Community Center.

Introduction of Jennifer Mathews

Jennifer Mathews is the new (first!) Executive Director of the LGBTQ+ Commission. She is also the ED of both the Human Rights Commission & the Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship. She introduced herself, and is looking forward to working with us. She has been added to the LGBTQ+ Commission email group, and can be contacted at 617-349-4399 or JMathews@CambridgeMA.gov. Her office is on the 2nd floor of 51 Inman Street near Amelia’s office.

City Manager Louie DePasquale writes:

“I know that it has been a long-standing request that the City appoint an Executive Director for the LGBTQ+ Commission. I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Jennifer Mathews as the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission, effective October 11, 2021. Jennifer is a Cambridge resident and has served as Assistant to the City Manager since March 2019. She has also been serving as the Interim Executive Director for the CHRC and CIRC since March 2021.

“In her new role, Jennifer will serve as the City’s first Executive Director for the LGBTQ+ Commission. I hope you will join me in congratulating Jennifer on her new role and I know that she is looking forward to working with the Commission.” **Public Comment / Announcements** – None

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021