

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6pm

Co-Chairs: Noelani Gabriel Holt and Bill Barnert
Tonight's meeting chaired by: Noelani Gabriel Holt

In attendance: Commissioners Noelani Gabriel Holt, Bill Barnert, Frank Arce, Soltan Bryce, Olivia Sevey, Lauryn McNair, Kat Long, Linden Huhmann, Kate Grams. Jennifer Mathews (staff), Amelia Joselow (staff), and Jack Reid (guest)

Commissioners absent: Bob Bordone, Noelani Kamelameia, Cameron Van Fossen, Greg MacDonough, Warner Santiago, Badriyyah Alsabah, and Lesley Phillips

Welcome

1. Assign Minute Taker

Frank Arce agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

2. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

Minutes from last meeting were approved unanimously

3. Approve / Modify Agenda

Kat Long will ensure John Gintell is added to Pride Brunch email distribution list for future communication.

4. Review of Projects (current actions, and plans) including reports from Jennifer & Amelia

- Community Center Project got approval to post a job for part-time programming position. Jennifer needs to get job description approved and posted. Goal: Finalize and post job by next Commission meeting.
- All-Gender Bathrooms: The draft survey language to local businesses to encourage them to install All Gender bathroom signs looks great. One follow-up, need to meet to ensure consistent messaging with code requirement compliance, prior to distribution of survey.
- Commission requested Jennifer seek advice from law department on whether the city can do a local ordinance change to require single-occupancy bathrooms in the city to be All-Gender. The answer/feedback is no, most likely will need to go through home grown petition route or State Law change.
- Amelia highlighted ArcGIS, an app that city has access to, and Amelia has created a story map regarding LGBTQ+ senior housing inclusivity in Cambridge.
- The 2022 Report for Senior Housing is now finalized.

- Amelia shared work with the Health Improvement Plan, specifically the Mental Health Group. Meeting with person in charge of Community Vulnerability and Resiliency section to get LGBTQ+ items and resources included.
- Pride Month: Mayor did a policy order to light city hall, redo benches/sidewalks, etc. for Pride Month celebration. Here's the Policy Order: POR 2022 #79

5. Reports from Working Groups

- **All-Gender Bathrooms:** No additional items. Thorough updates provided via Review of Projects.
- **Budget:** Just Amelia (working person). If Commission has any bills please send them to Amelia, for example Pride Brunch.
- **City Forms:** Group is inactive.
- **Communications:** No updates.
- **Community Center:** No additional items. Thorough updates provided via Review of Projects.
- **Diversity:** No updates.
- **Events:** Main items for discussion will be reviewed later in meeting.
- **Public Health & Safety:** Police Commissioner Elow, the point person from the police, was invited, and was planning on attending today's meeting. Due to a conflict, she is not in attendance and is confirmed for the June meeting
- **Pride Brunch**

Award Recipients:

- **Bayard Rustin Award** – Selected via Mayors and City Manager Office. The Commission will identify recommendations and they take it from there. Need to set up meeting with Councilor Denise Simmons to go over possible nominees.
- **Rose Lipkin Award** – Connect with Arthur Lipkin for nominations, CC: Drake King.
- **Recognition Awards** – The Commission usually awards one Individual Recognition Award & one Organization Recognition Award. The number of each can be zero, or more than one.

All awards go on permanent record to give official proclamation/resolution – need to find out deadline needed. Resolution come from Mayor/Council need to get done by June 2, by 4:30pm. Goal: Have nominations/recommendations by last week of May.

Advertising/Marketing:

Olivia is working on Pride Brunch Flyer. Need Logos (Cambridge) which Jennifer will send. Will add entertainment/food/awards to communication resources: website, City Calendar, Eventbrite (add more info and QR Code, RSVP but if you don't you are still welcomed, and add Black and Brown colors to Pride Flag). Also, updating collateral for lawn signs.

Frank will update all Commission-related social media accounts (access located in shared Google doc). Also, will coordinate decoration/swag pickup with Bill.

Kat made a proposal for the Pride Brunch Working Group to have authority to use funds. Approved unanimously. Commission authorizes budgetary use of \$750-\$1000 for Pride Brunch related expenses.

Other items: Mayor's office will handle food, decoration, and flowers

Printing handled via Amelia (as notated before). Olivia making updates and submitting this week.

Entertainment: Queer educators of Cambridge listserv to get students to perform at Pride Brunch. Also, received Mayor's Office support for interactive artwork to hang at City Hall. Additional planning/logistics questions related to interactive artwork.

- **Recruitment:** Only needed when we need to recruit new people, which we don't right now.
- **Strategic Planning:**
Only needs to meet from time-to-time.
- **Youth:** No Updates
- **Housing:** Group met with Jeff Roberts, Director of Zoning & Development, and talked about zoning policies. The group is meeting again (Linden, Jennifer, Jack, and Olivia) Monday, May 9, 2022, at 5pm. Focus on zoning policies related to defining family and the limits to unrelated people living together.

6. New Business

Jack Reid reviewed and requested advocacy and/or support from the LGBTQ+ Commission on a couple of Massachusetts Bills:

- **[Bill H.3124](#) – An Act Establishing Gender Neutral Bathrooms**
 - By Ms. Domb of Amherst, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3124) of Mindy Domb and others relative to the promulgation of State

Building Code regulations to allow for gender neutral bathrooms. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

- **[Bill H.3126](#) – An Act Providing for A Gender-Neutral Designation on State Documents and Identification**
 - By Representatives Domb of Amherst and Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3126) of Mindy Domb, Marjorie C. Decker and others relative to providing for a gender-neutral designation on state documents and identifications. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

It was noted, by Jennifer, that Boards and Commission can take positions (i.e., submit letters of support, etc.) but the Commission must be mindful of other commissions/boards, common courtesy. If the Commission decides to take a position on varying topics and/or issues, please give Jennifer the heads up.

The Commission voted unanimously to allow the drafting of a letter to support both Bill H.3124 & H.3126 if no conflicts with other commissions and/or boards. Jack will assist in drafting the letter.

7. **Tabling Events**

Two tabling events needing volunteers/assistance (couple of Commissioners need for varying shifts):

- **[MayFair](#)**: May 15, 2022, at Harvard Square from 11am-6pm.
 - Need 2 people for each of the 3 2-hour shifts
 - Kat Long volunteered for 2-hour timeslot for MayFair.
 - Bill will provide swag for distribution
- **Memorial Day Observance** - Veterans Event
 - Monday, May 30, 2022
 - Kat volunteered to take a shift.

Jennifer will create a share a Doodle for event volunteers.

Idea: Get Pride Brunch flyers ready to distribute/advertise at events.

Amelia noted that printing is handled by her and any items that need to be printed should be sent to her. Depending on quantity she will print in-house or send out to external vendor. Olivia will make updates to Pride Brunch postcard/flyers.

8. **Possible Commission Social Event**

A possible social event outside would be nice but with an option to move inside if need be. Potential locations:

- Denehy Park
- Space by 344 Broadway (City Hall Annex)
 - Jennifer will verify if space can be utilized by non-city workers

Determined that a Saturday afternoon is the ideal time for social event.

Bill will send email to identify date.

9. Public Comments / Announcements

- Community Pride Day at CRLS on Friday, June 10, 2022, at 3:30pm-6:30pm

10. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 6pm (probably over Zoom)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm!