

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: 12/08/2022 6:00pm

Tonight's Chair: Frank Arce

Attendance (X = Here, LOA = Leave of Absence, Blank = Absent):

| COMMISSIONERS | Pre-sent? | COMMISSIONERS | Pre-sent? | STAFF | Pre-sent? |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Badriyyah Alsabah | X | Lesley Phillips | X | Jennifer Mathews | X |
| Bill Barnert | X | Linden Huhmann | X | Amelia Joselow | X |
| Bob Bordone | | Noelani Kamelamela | | Phoebe Hallahan | X |
| Frank Arce | X | Olivia Sevey | | GUESTS | |
| Gregory MacDonough | X | Warner Santiago | X | Alaina Vermilya, Brandeis student | |
| Kat Long | X | | X | Saskia VannJames | |
| Kate Grams | X | | X | Lisa Waxman, Cambridge Homes | |
| Lauryn McNair | X | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Neighborhood: City Wide

Contact

- Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission <LGBTQPlusCommission@CambridgeMA.gov>
- 617-349-3355

Agenda

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Frank Arce
Tonight's meeting chaired by: Frank Arce

1. **Welcome**
2. **Assign Minute Taker**
 - Kat Long volunteered to take minutes
3. **Approve / Modify Agenda**
 - Agenda approved as is
4. **Approve Previous Minutes**
 - Minutes approved
5. **Introductions**
 - **Phoebe Hallahan**, new LGBTQ+ Programming Leader
 - **Alaina Vermilya** (she/her/hers), Brandeis University student
 - i. Senior Thesis: Gender & Sexuality
 - **Saskia VannJames** (She/They)
 - i. Director of Racial Justice & Health Equity Policy, Board Member, MRCC
 1. Saskia provided an overview of the work being done by the MRCC and shared a resource going into further detail
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CKmsUR0yAQhb8rmJIPEI/CqcxDyMUTrddqgHjlsBfin4/edit?usp=sharing>
 2. Cambridge passed a Racial Justice and Equity Commission last year but this has not moved forward; Saskia requests support from the LGBTQ+ commission to engage with City Manager requesting he prioritize the implementation of the Racial Justice and Equity Commission by February 2023
 - a. Motion: Commission to write a letter to the City Manager requesting he prioritize the implementation of the Racial Justice and Equity Commission by February 2023
 - i. Motion passed
 3. Additionally Saskia gave an overview of their efforts to create an initiative in Cambridge for a reparations based housing program (e.g. an estate being gifted/willed to descendants of chattel slaves)
 - **Lisa Waxman**
 - i. Director of Social Services, Cambridge Homes
 1. Cambridge Homes is an independent and assisted living home with about 45 residents in Cambridge. The center is Platinum Certified for SAGECare which includes training for all department heads and all associates; the center achieved 100% training participation
 2. Executive office of Elder Affairs has recently mandated annual inservice on LGBTQ+ care
6. **Project Updates** (current actions, and plans) including reports from Jennifer & Amelia
 - Town Hall & Focus Group Report - Ideas for Next Research Focus

- In person town hall and virtual focus groups conducted to generate ideas for the next research focus
- 4 topics identified
 - Analyzing the results of the teen health survey re LGBTQ+ youth mental health and comparing to national data
 - Value of intergenerational connections
 - Review/Part 2 of inclusion in Cambridge healthcare settings
 - Part 1 conducted ~7 years ago
 - Value of a lens toward racial justice in queer spaces
- Amelia to draft research proposals for the teen health; intergenerational connection and inclusion in healthcare settings topics. At a future meeting Amelia will present the proposals and the Commission will vote on which topic will move forward for the next research focus
- Potential Collaboration with CHRC & Disabilities Commission re Restroom Accessibility Map
 - Consider a possible future partnership with the Commissions for Humans with Disabilities and Human Rights Commission meetings about a City GIS map of public restrooms which could include information on accessibility, services, etc.
- LGBTQ+-Friendly Housing Task Force
 - Posting announcing the task force and recruitment of members to be posted early 2023
 - New position posted for the Humans Rights Commission Operations Director https://www2.cambridgema.gov/viewjoblisting.cfm?Job_ID=2968

7. Working Group Reports

- All-Gender Bathrooms
 - See above update on potential collaboration with CHRC & Disabilities Commission
- Budget
 - No updates
- City Forms
 - No updates
- Communications
 - Newsletter was distributed last week. Bill to call a meeting of the working group soon. Among the topics to be discussed will be new brochures.
- Community Center
 - No updates
- Diversity ^L_{SEP}
 - No updates
- Events
 - No events currently planned.
- Handbook
 - Working group has updated the handbook and next step is for the City solicitor to review

- Housing
 - Working group currently focusing on a city policy that makes it illegal for more than 3 unrelated people living together
 - Next step is to gather information from impacted people
 - Developing survey for the LGBTQ+ community around shared/co-housing
 -
- Public Health & Safety
 - Working to meet with the Police Commissioner to learn what their plans for an overhaul of the LGBTQ+ training for police
- Pride Brunch
 - No update
- Recruitment
 - Working group update: 11/17/22 meeting and Reappointment Communication
 - Jennifer has requested an update from the city on the timing of postings for new Commissioners
- Strategic Planning
 - No update
- Youth:
 - Challenges finding a time to meet; plan to be reassessed.

8. Old Business

- Future November/December commission meeting determination - Voting Required.
- Motion: Move the November meeting to the first Thursday in December
 - i. Motion passed

9. New Business

- No new business

10. Report from Rainbows Across Communities

- Phoebe has been added to the R.A.C. list
- RAC was hoping to sponsor a Boston Gay Men's Chorus concert this month, but it didn't pan out.
- Bill attended a SAGE Table in Arlington on Nov. 10th. There were mostly seniors in attendance, only a few under 30's & two from high school.
- Next RAC meeting: Wednesday, December 14 · 5:00 – 5:55pm

11. Public Comments / Announcements

- No comments/announcements

12. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2023 - On Zoom

*To view the meeting or to participate in public comment, email
Amelia Joselow <AJoselow@CambridgeMA.gov>.*