

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting
Agenda January 27, 2022

- I. Welcome
 - A. Attendance: Bill Barnert, Cameron Van Fossen, Gregory MacDonough, Lesley Phillips, Jennifer Mathews, Amelia Joselow, Rachel Oppenheimer, Linden Huhmann, Noelani Gabriel Holt, John Gintell
- II. Minute Taker
 - A. Cameron Van Fossen (they/them/theirs)
- III. Introductions
 - A. Cambridge Citizen Guest: Robert Rowledge
- IV. Approve Minutes from December
 - A. Minutes approved unanimously
- V. Approve Agenda
- VI. Status of recruitment of new Commissioners
 - A. 5 candidates in the pipeline
 - B. 2 more potential openings coming up
 1. John and Neffyn staying on so we don't need the full 20 people
 - C. With new candidates 18 people
 - D. Jennifer will share resumes of the candidates with the group via email after the meeting
- VII. Election of co-chairs
 - A. Neffyn and John's terms expire at the end of March
 - B. Neffyn and John can continue a bit but we need new chairs to step up
 - C. John expressed some sentiments about his experience as a commissioner and about the commission
 1. Commission created in 2005, has accomplished a lot
 - D. Please let Neffyn and John know if you'd like to step into the roles
- VIII. Review of Projects (current actions, and plans) including reports from Jennifer & Amelia
 - A. LGBT Community Center
 1. Meeting with City Manager next week to discuss the project
 2. Amelia and Jennifer have been meeting with staff of senior and youth centers to talk about ways to partner for targeted programming
 3. Expanding targeted LGBTQ+ programming in existing spaces as a short term strategy
 4. Thoughts for next steps
 - a) Amelia is really excited
 - (1) Presentation is very polished
 - (2) Jennifer tailored it to Louis
 - b) John G named budget upcoming
 - (1) Staffing or extra money for existing centers to expand programming needed?
 - c) John G also named that in July there will be a new City manager

- d) Amelia intends to clarify that the additional programming is just a pilot and proof of case with the eventual hope of a center

B. All gender bathrooms

1. Survey distribution interrupted by tech issues
2. Have talked to various departments of city about distribution to span industries
3. Survey monkey formatting issues should be done soon
4. City manager and economic development dept to review
5. Goal to distribute in March
6. Shout out to Jennifer for her hard work
7. John named that we may have a lot of success since the new plumbing code made it easier
 - a) Excited about progress because it's important
8. Signs about the bathrooms turned out more expensive than expected
9. The survey will also be informational to inform folks that this is an undertaking of the city and the ways the city is committed to minimizing the burden on businesses
10. Bill suggested a QR code to access the survey
11. Linden named that the plumbing code is still too difficult because you need to get a waiver every time
 - a) International plumbing code tried to make it easier but it hasn't happened at the state level to Linden's knowledge
12. An MIT group reached out to Linden around advocating for changes to the plumbing code
 - a) They sent a letter to the plumbing board
13. Our effort at the city is single stall
14. Linden is asking if the commission can help
 - a) Linden is asking if we can reach out to the state to lobby for a change to the plumbing code
15. Jennifer suggested finding out where they are in their advocacy to see how we can help
16. Bill suggested the all gender working group meet to determine how they can support the state plumbing board advocacy Linden brought forth to the commission
17. Lesley suggested bringing a resolution around the plumbing to various government levels to advocate on a legislative level given that its an election year, and offered to write it
18. Could the all gender working group write a letter in advocacy of the MIT groups advocacy to the state plumbing board?

C. Housing Surveys

1. Jennifer will keep trying but no specific update as of now
2. Will work on it for next meeting
3. Amelia has been reading

D. Healthcare Surveys

1. Amelia going over Alicia's old reports and surveys and updating information
 2. The healthcare survey was quite a few years ago
 3. Just conducting surveys is useful to organizations because it helps them reflect
 4. The city is getting its own buildings up to speed with gender neutral bathrooms and signs
 5. City hall should be done in fall with 3 all-gender bathrooms
- E. Liaison with other LGBTQ Groups
1. Invitation from Quincy LGBTQ+ Commission
 - a) Notes are in the email from Bill
 - (1) There are only five Commissioners so far, they are hoping to get to ten. Among the current members are the President of Quincy Pride (Sheika), a representative from the schools & a representative from the "Church of the Presidents" (a local LGBTQ+ supportive UU Church).
 - b) The Quincy Commission wants us to attend their next meeting to add color to what we function to do as a commission
 - c) Feb 9 at 630pm
 2. Update from cross-town collaboration network
 - a) Notes are in the email from Bill
 - b) A group of multiple lgbtq+ orgs across the city called "Rainbows across communities"
 - c) Group vision to be resources to each other, collaborate and cross-publicize
 - d) Working on a story path to honor trans folks
 - e) Reach out to Bill to get involved
- IX. Reports from Working Groups
- A. Next meeting when new commissioners appointed we can assign folks to groups and also reconvene working groups
 1. Work to be done by the youth group
 - B. At next meeting we should talk in depth about each working group and their mission
 - C. Bill can send a note to all the new folks about the working groups
- X. Quick rundown on groups to see what the status is
- XI. Public Comments / Announcements
- XII. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday February 24, 2022