

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

Minutes: April 27, 2023

Tonight's Chair: Bill Barnert

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

COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	STAFF	Pre-sent?
Badriyyah Alsabah		Lesley Phillips	LOA	Jennifer Mathews	LOA
Bill Barnert	X	Linden Huhmann	X	Amelia Joselow	X
Bob Bordone		Noelani Kamelamela		Phoebe Hallahan	X
Frank Arce	X	Olivia Sevey		Sarah Binney	X
Gregory MacDonough	X	Warner Santiago		GUESTS	
Kat Long	X			Matt Nelson	
Lauryn McNair	X				

Location: Zoom

Agenda

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Frank Arce

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Bill Barnert

1. **Welcome**
2. **Assign Minute Taker**
 - Frank Arce
3. **Approve / Modify Agenda**
 - Quorum achieved. Approved.
4. **Approve March Minutes**
 - Tabled to May
5. **Introductions**
 - Matt Nelson (Assistant to the City Manager, Community Relations) & Crystal Rosa (Language Access Manager) are taking on some of Jennifer Mathews' supervisory responsibilities while Jennifer is on maternity leave. Jennifer plans to return at the end of August.
6. **Project Updates** (current actions, and plans) including reports from Sarah, Amelia, & Phoebe
 - **Sarah** - Working on Pride brunch prep.
 - **Amelia** - Working on Health Care report and first portion complete. Project pivoted from current strategy to more focus group-centric methodology.
 - **Amelia**- Working on Housing/Zoning survey; specifically, with the 3+ unrelated people living in a single unit in Cambridge. Survey intended to go out to people who are living in co-op situation/intentional housing community. [Linden's post-meeting clarification: The survey is intended to reach anyone who currently lives, has previously lived, or would like in the future to live in a household with more than 3 unrelated people in Cambridge, with a focus especially on LGBTQ+ folks. The target audience includes all households with more than 3 unrelated people, not just co-ops or intentional communities.] Making progress.
 - **Phoebe** - Working on Pride brunch and facilitating inquiries about LGBTQ+ network event and potential collaboration with Longfellow House. Also, programming with the Senior Center.
7. **Working Group Reports**
 - All-Gender Bathrooms
 - No report
 - Budget
 - Expenditures will be managed via Sarah. FY24 City Budget submitted to the City Council. FY24 starts July.
 - City Forms
 - No report
 - Communications – will meet again when new Commissioners are on board
 - Community Center
 - No report
 - Diversity ^[L]_[SEP]
 - No report
 - Events
 - **Fair Housing** – This Saturday April 29 - 11am-2pm w/ Human Rights Commission at CPL. A) Do we want to table? If there is little room, do we want to share a table with the Human Rights Commission?

- We will not be able to table at this event.
 - **MayFair** – Sunday, May 7th, 2023 (Rain Date, Sunday, May 21st) – Do we have enough Commissioners/Staff to table at MayFair?
 - We will participate. Greg/Bill early shift and Kat/Frank 3-6pm shift. Bill will coordinate with Phoebe around collateral/tabling stuff.
 - **Starlight Square** – The Starlight Square organizers are hoping to have Starlight Season 4 approved by the first week of May. We've been tentatively assigned Saturday evening, Sept. 23rd.
 - Topic will be on docket at upcoming Council meeting
- Handbook
 - The Handbook, the By-Laws & a few other docs need to be reviewed again in light of the new staff/volunteer responsibilities. We might want to wait until Jennifer gets back in July.
 - Will need to be revisited due to operational changes.
- Housing
 - No report
- Public Health & Safety
 - No report
- Pride Brunch
 - We will need some Commissioners to help out at the Pride Brunch on Saturday, June 10th.
 - Preparation in the work with Mayor's Office
 - Change in focus from awards/speeches to more festivities, e.g. drag performers, face painters, etc.
 - Noe MC
 - Mayor's Office lead with food and decoration
 - Commission taking lead on programming
- Recruitment - Working group update related to new commissioners.
 - New commissioners being presented to City Council.
- Strategic Planning
 - No report
- Youth – will meet again when new Commissioners are on board

8. Old Business

- No old business

9. New Business

- Now that we have staff support, many of the responsibilities of the Co-Chairs & other volunteer Commissioners are now the responsibility of the staff. That includes approving any budget items. Sarah will explain in more detail, and can answer any questions.
 - Note: This will involve possible updates to the **Commission By-Laws**, **Commission Handbook** (both of which were going to be discussed & approved tonight – now on hold.) It will also involve an update to the unofficial **Role of Commission Chair/Co-Chairs, Detailed Description** document.

- Question: Is there any further news on when we can go back to in-person meetings?
 - Limited hybrid meeting spaces, so virtual meetings until further notice.
- The 2nd annual Cambridge Public Schools **Community Pride Day** will be on Friday, June 2nd, from 3:30-6:30. Frank & Bill are working with the planning team.
- There is a Massachusetts bill “**An Act establishing gender-neutral bathrooms**” (H.3019) that we might want to publicly support.

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H3019>

 - It adds to the plumbing regulations: “The examiners shall promulgate or amend regulations to allow gender-neutral toilet and bathing facilities, including toilet and bathing facilities that contain more than 1 toilet, urinal, or shower separated by privacy walls or partitions, with separate or grouped handwashing fixtures, to be designated or installed in any use group defined in the state building code, regardless of whether the work being performed is new construction or repair, renovation or alteration work.”
 - Does the Commission want to draft a letter of support and/or create a working group to tackle this issue and generate support for the bill?

10. Report from Rainbows Across Communities

- The annual **Let Trans Athletes Play** event will likely be on May 13th at Danehy Park. They are still negotiating with the City.
- **Multi-Town Community Pot-Luck Picnic** - Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 29 (Rain date: Sunday, July 30), at one of the parks in Arlington.
 - Each town/city is also encouraged to schedule an additional pot-luck picnic for their community on another date. Do we want to?
- Here is a partial list of known Pride events this year:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	NOTES
Sat, May 20, 2023		Youth Pride	Rose Kennedy Greenway	https://www.bagly.org/youth-pride
Thu, Jun 1, 2023	6:00 PM	Somerville Pride Flag Raising		
Fri, Jun 2, 2023	after school	2nd Annual Cambridge Community Pride Day	CRLS?	
Sat, Jun 3, 2023	tba	Trans Resistance's 4th Annual Trans Resistance March & Vigil for Black Trans Lives	Franklin Park ??	
Sat, Jun 10, 2023	tba (AM)	Cambridge Pride Brunch	Cambridge City Hall	https://www.CambridgeMA.gov/CityCalendar/view.aspx?guid=b5fdb51362bb44e587a45fd6a86f72d6

Sat, Jun 10, 2023	tba (PM)	Boston Pride Parade & Festival	Boston Common & City Hall	
Sun, Jun 11, 2023	tbd	OUT MetroWest Pride Event	Exhibit A Brewing Company	Confirmed.
Sun, Jun 11, 2023	12-4 p.m.	Sharon LGBTQ+ Pride Car Parade and Festival	Memorial Park Beach Beach Street Sharon, MA	https://www.lgbtqpluss Sharon.org/
Friday, June 16 Saturday, June 17 Sunday, June 18	8 pm 8 pm 3 pm	BGMC: Whitney & Friends	Jordan Hall	https://www.BGMC.org/
Sat., June 17	1:00 PM	Belmont Pride parade/picnic/bands	Belmont Town Green (404 Concord Ave)	https://www.belmontlgbtq.com/news-and-events/gkj0qmrj5mif2kw33ithsld15b1njin
Sat, Jun 17, 2023	2pm-5pm	Arlington Pride Festival	Town Hall Gardens, in Town Hall if rain.	https://www.facebook.com/events/385781773458052/
Sat, Jun 17, 2023	4-8pm	Somerville Big Gay Dance Party	Union Sq	Rain date June 18
Sat. Jun 24, 2023	tba		Salem	LAST YEAR's INFO: Brunch, parade, festival, after party; parade lineup 9am, starts 10am. https://northshorepride.org/
Thurs, Jun 29 - Sun Jul 2	Various	Boston Urban Pride Weekend 2023	Various (\$)	https://www.LesBiGayUrbanFoundation.org/buup Thurs June 29 - Youth Urban Pride Event TBA Fri June 30 - 2pm-6pm: Welcome to Boston Fri June 30 - 9pm-1:30am: Pitch Black Sat July 1 - Healthy Summit TBA Sat July 1 - 2pm-6pm: Colors Sat July 1 - 9pm-1:30am: Entourage Pt. 2 Sun July 2 - Music & Arts Festival TBA Sun July 2 - 10pm-2am: Finale
Sat, Jul 22, 2023	11am-3pm	Hyannis Village Green		CapeCodPride.org Rain Date: Sunday, 7/23

11. Public Comments / Announcements

12. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 25, 2023, over Zoom
