

**September 24, 2015 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015**

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the September 24 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the July 23 meeting were approved.

**Commissioners Present:** Jessica Daniels, Mal Malme, Maya Escobar, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Bill Barnert, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Kristina Mastropasqua, Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee, Lesley Phillips, Bob Parlin

**Commissioners Absent:** (excused) – John Gintell, Anna Weick – (leave of absence) – Maggie Giles

**Guests:** Chris Burke (Superintendent of Cambridge Police), Ed Byrne (Coordinator of Student Diversity Programs at CRLS and aide to Mayor Maher)

**I. Police Report given by Chris Burke**

- a. Chris has continued having meetings with Taha Jennings, Aide to the City Manager, and Jackie Phillips, City Training Coordinator regarding LGBTQ cultural competency training for municipal employees.
- b. They have drafted a Request For Proposal (RFP), which Aren, John, and Melody Brazo have looked at. It is almost ready to send out. Once there are applicants they'll want input and help from Commission members to screen and choose a trainer or trainers.
- c. Training will be required for all City employees, except School Department and Police and Fire Dept. employees, who receive training already. After the initial training, department managers will train new employees.
- d. GOAL (Gay Officers Action League) New England continues to train recruits at the Lowell Police Academy, the regional training center for police from many towns. The training started many years ago in Cambridge (at our request) and is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year at the Academy. Pro Ambulance still wants training. It's been difficult to schedule with GOAL, since they're all volunteers who work full time as officers.

**II. Future Events**

- a. *Oktoberfest – Sunday, Oct 11, 12-6pm*
  - i. Kevin Shpritzer is coordinating.
  - ii. Potential volunteers include: Bill, Neil (2-6), Lesley, and Jessica.
  - iii. Kevin will send out an additional request for volunteers over email.
- b. *October film and panel event committee: "The Year We Thought About Love" – Thursday, October 15 – 6pm*
  - i. We can turn closed captioning on for the film, but hearing-impaired guests would not be able to access the panel discussions.
  - ii. To address that potential need, we'd like to get an ASL interpreter. Mal and Neil will reach out to their contacts seeking a volunteer interpreter.

- iii. We will send out a press release for the event without mention of an interpreter. If one gets lined up, we will update the press release with that information.
- iv. Maya and Bob are coordinating food donations. Mal may assist if needed.
- v. We will likely need to spend some of our money on food and drinks.
- c. *LGBTQ Authors – in the spring at the Library*
  - i. Our contact at the Cambridge Public Library, Marilyn Gagalis, asked if we would be interested in co-sponsoring an event this coming spring of local LGBTQ authors.
  - ii. We will offer to co-sponsor by publicizing, recommending local authors we know of, and helping out on the day of the event, but not being lead organizers.

### III. **Black Lives Matter**

- a. Abe Lateiner, on behalf of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Cambridge, informed the Commission that Elle Hearn will be visiting Cambridge the weekend of October 11 for the Honk! Festival.
- b. Elle is a Black Transgender woman who is the Central Region Field Coordinator for GetEQUAL, an organization working on full equality for LGBTQ people, and works closely with BlackLivesMatter.
- c. BLM Cambridge will be marching in the HONK! Parade and Elle will be speaking from a stage at Oktoberfest. The focus of their action will be uplifting Black trans lives.
- d. BLM Cambridge offered the GLBT Commission the opportunity to support Elle's visit, in particular helping fund her airfare and housing.
- e. While we would like to support Elle in her visit, we agreed that we are unable to use our funds for this purpose, nor any purpose which we are not specifically involved in the planning and/or sponsoring.
- f. Anna is working with BLM on a welcoming reception for Elle. Mal and Lesley will connect with Anna and see if we can assist her in any way. The event will be on October 12 at 6:30 at the YWCA in Cambridge.

### IV. **New Give-Aways**

- a. Steven will reach out to Kara to get the give-aways that were ordered.

### V. **New Members**

- a. We are starting to think about the best ways to publicize for new members to join the Commission. We will have several openings in January.

### VI. **Strategic Planning Committee**

- a. Neil, Steven, John and Lesley volunteered to be on this committee.
- b. They are planning to meet in October and to bring ideas to our next meeting.

### VII. **Diversity Committee**

- a. Neil, Maya and Rachel will comprise this committee.

### VIII. **Seniors Healthcare Project Update**

- a. Aren and Elysia had a follow-up meeting with Cambridge Rehab and Nursing Home.

- b. They met with the director, social worker, activities coordinator, and a unit manager. All were very open and receptive to training and making some policy and practice changes in order to be more fully welcoming to LGBTQ patients, family members, and employees.
- c. There are meetings scheduled with Sancta Maria Nursing Facility, Spaulding Rehab, and Cambridge Health Alliance.
- d. Aren posed the question of what we should do with the report now that it's finished.
  - i. Bill suggested sending it to other municipalities in Massachusetts.
  - ii. Kristina suggested putting it on our website as a pdf and tweeting out the link.
  - iii. Rachel suggested having the report presented at the LGBT Seniors Conference at Salem State in the spring.

**IX. Senior Housing Project Update**

- a. Elysia has contacted the Cambridge Housing Authority and other senior housing facilities to meet with them and discuss the project.

**X. Communications**

- a. We have over 400 followers on Twitter.
- b. At Bill's suggestion, we will combine the social media and email subcommittees into a general communications committee.
- c. The goal would be to increase our publicity efforts and make our communication more effective.
- d. Maya, Steven, Bill, Kristina, and John (probably) are on this committee.

**XI. Kennedy School**

- a. Kristina has been communicating with a policy journal at the Kennedy School. They are interested in doing an article on the Seniors Project, possibly interviewing Elysia, and in coming to a meeting. Kristina will invite them to join us in October or November.

**XII. Public Comment**

- a. Ed Byrne reported that there are two faculty members joining him to advise Project 10 East this year.
  - i. Their first official meeting will be next week.
  - ii. Returning students are looking forward to the Coming Out Day assembly in October.
  - iii. Rachel suggested that the P10 students make more buttons.
- b. The City's Boards and Commissions reception will be Wednesday, October 28 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm