

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE GLBT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes 12-1-16

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Maya Escobar, Bill Barnert, Bob Parlin, Rachel Oppenheimer, Jessica Daniels, Mal Malme, Ted Waechter, Steven Lee, Lesley Phillips, Susan Bernstein, Anna Weick, Aren Stone, Kimm Topping,

Commissioners Absent: (excused): Linda Daniels, Sylvia Guerra,

Visitors: City Councilor Nadeem Mazen, Becky Vogel, Naomi Gutierrez, Sarah Vincent

MINUTES

We approved the October meeting minutes.

MINUTE TAKER

We need a Commissioner to take minutes. Jessica volunteered for this meeting. Maya volunteered for the January meeting.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Brian O'Connor was not able to attend the meeting but sent a note with his report.

- The SOGI Feedback team (volunteers from several city departments) reviewed the five proposals received in response to the RFP. A report from the Feedback team will be submitted to the City Manager and the team will participate in interviews with some of the organizations submitting proposals. Aren and John are on the Feedback team.
- On December 2, a group of detectives will be attending a one-day conference on LGBTQ Communities impacted by domestic violence.
- Brian will attend a December 8 Boston GLBT meeting at Boston Police Headquarters with members of several Police departments. John Gintell will attend.

UPDATE ON SENIORS and YOUTH PROJECTS

There was no report.

PAST EVENTS

Veterans Appreciation Day, November 11

Several Commissioners staffed a table in City Hall for the event. Traffic was light, but it was good for the Commission to participate. The City Manager and other city officials stopped by to say hello. Jessica organized the Commission table.

Rainbow Room on Nov. 17 at the YWCA

(Evening of poetry and performance by queer and trans artists)

The event and the food was great. There was a diverse group of performers. About 90 attendees in total throughout the night, and the audience was younger and included more people of color than at many of our events. Some want to make it a regular event, once or twice each year. Anna and Mal were the main organizers for the event.

Thank you to 1369 Coffee House, Darwin's, Olé, Cambridge Common, and Dado Teas (supplied by 1369) for the food. Bob and Susan organized the food donations.

FUTURE EVENTS

Joint event with Cambridge Muslim Community

- Nadeem Mazen attended tonight's meeting as a representative of the Cambridge Muslim community.
- There had been interest after the Orlando shootings to hold an event jointly. We're wondering if there's still interest after the election.
 - Cambridge Muslim community often has competing obligations at night. Hard to draw people to an event
 - Might be possible to connect with an event in Boston. Nadeem will research.
 - LGBTQ Muslims are a small subset of the community
- Other ideas: include a participatory arts component
- A planning committee was formed. Lesley, Steven, Bob, John, Bill, Susan, Maya, and Aren will participate.

Training event on the "+" of LGBTQ+

- Kimm will provide the training, which will require about 60-90 minutes
- We will hold this training on the date of the **March** meeting

STATUS/DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Name Change

- It's on the agenda for Monday's City Council Meeting. John will speak during the public comment portion of the meeting. The Ordinance Committee will then have a public hearing to confirm the new name and then send it back to the Council for final approval.

Budget

- No budget updates.

All Gender Bathrooms

- Two of the four members of the committee are leaving the commission so new members were needed. Anna volunteered.
- There is a possible change to plumbing codes that would allow establishments to change to all-gender bathrooms without violating current plumbing codes.
- The committee decided the best signage would simply include a toilet.

Diversity Committee

- The committee hasn't met since the last Commission meeting, but we will move forward to have training for Commissioners focusing on racial diversity.
 - It was decided that this training will take place on the date of the usual **May** meeting.
- The committee will aim to meet again before the January meeting to discuss.
- Outside facilitator for the training will be needed.

RECRUITING NEW COMMISSIONERS

- Aren will reach out to former Bayard Rustin Recipients
- Steven will coordinate the interviews.
- Anna and Rachel will also help.
- The visitors to tonight's meeting were asked how they had heard about the Commission. Answer: Twitter, the City website, and on a notice about a past Commission event. Anna is in charge of the Commission's Twitter feed.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Mal described an incident involving a trans individual in Melrose. There was a happy ending following a meeting with the Melrose police chief.

Ted said that the recent encounter between a Cambridge police officer and some pedestrians in Porter Square disturbed queer students at Harvard and eroded trust that students felt toward the police. Ted would like Det. Brian O'Connor (police rep to the commission) to convey that swearing shouldn't merit a response of violence from the police.

- Aren noted that the incident was disappointing because the police have had so much de-escalation training. Worth doing something as a Commission?
- Mal noted that during the next few years the Commission could work together with the police department to let people know that the police are a resource for the LGBTQ+ community.
- We will work through Brian O'Connor and Brian Corr (Director of the Police Review and Advisory Board) to see what we might do.
- NEXT STEPS: Share information to let people know the Commission is here and can help people navigate relations with the police.
 - Ask Interim Police Commissioner Chris Burke to attend the January meeting
 - John will reach out to Brian O'Connor
 - Aren will reach out to Brian Corr

Other discussion notes

- John and Aren will be meeting with Louis DePasquale, the new City Manager.
- Ted will be abroad in the spring and will be leaving the Commission.
- Maya encouraged all to complete the MBTA's survey on late-night service.
- The event at the library with Transgender author Chris Edwards has been postponed. New date TBD.
- Anna noted that today was World AIDS/HIV Day.

- Aren will get info on staffing the water stop in Cambridge during the AIDS walk in June.
- Kimm and Anna will look into setting up a table at the MLK Day of Service in January.
- Mal has the cart at her house.

PUBLIC COMMENT

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 26.