

LGBTQ+ Commission Minutes –

February 27, 2020 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Attending: Leo Austin-Spooner, Jessica Daniels, Kate Grams, Britt Huhmann, Steven Lee, Greg MacDonough, Mal Malme, Aren Stone , Kimm Topping

Commissioners Absent: Bill Barnert, Susan Bernstein, Maya Escobar, John Gintell, Noe Kamelamela, Nefyn Meissner, Rachel Oppenheimer, Lesley Phillips, Silas Weiner, Meesh Zucker, Bob Parlin (on leave). Commission Research Associate Amelia Joselow was also absent.

Because only nine Commissioners were in attendance, there was no quorum and no votes were taken.

Approve / Modify Agenda

Though the agenda was not formally approved by vote, discussion followed the order of the agenda.

1. Strategic Planning Committee Report

The Strategic Planning Committee has continued to work on new policies for the administration of the Commission.

The newest draft of the selection process for co-chairs was presented. The proposed policy would call for elections of all three co-chairs every other year in even years, starting in 2020. The Commission will continue to work on details before the Commission votes on the policy at a future meeting.

The proposed leave-of-absence policy, which was presented at the January meeting, would offer the option of three-month leaves to those who need them, renewable twice for a total of nine months. During that time, a Commissioner would not be counted as absent for the purposes of calculating whether a meeting is attended by a quorum.

The attendance policy is still being considered. Once finalized, the new policy would be adopted in conjunction with the leave-of-absence policy. The framework for the attendance policy currently under consideration would be for Commissioners to be asked for a commitment to attend six of the ten meetings each year.

The Commissioners in attendance offered thoughts on the leave-of-absence policy and the attendance policy and, with no strong objections voiced, the Strategic Planning Committee will continue to refine the policies.

2. Senior Housing Report

Amelia has forwarded the report to Commission members.

3. Committee Reports:

- **Revive Diversity Committee & Discuss Anti-Racism Training**
Mal restated that the Commission had intended to hold additional anti-racism trainings. Commissioners discussed what form a potential training might take, whether it should occupy a meeting session, and whether there were elements of our previous training that could be revisited. Aren is going to revive a Diversity Committee document that was meant as a template for Commission actions. One idea would be to create a community training event.

Leo, Mal, and Kimm will meet to discuss an idea for a session or event that would come after June's

Pride Brunch.

- Form Pride Brunch Committee
Kimm will chair the committee. Aren, Steven, and Leo will join. Jessica will be a substitute, if needed.
- Police Committee
 - Commissioner Bard will attend the March meeting. Kimm will send out a request for Commissioners to submit questions for Commissioner Bard.
 - Amelia spoke to Commissioner Bard about GOAL training, which the Commission can discuss next month.
- Community Center – the committee hasn't met yet and none of the key organizers were in attendance.
- Rainbow Room – the committee hasn't met yet. Mal said linking a Rainbow Room event to a diversity-inspired event is one idea that could be considered.
- All-Gender Bathrooms – the City Manager is enthusiastic about completing the process for converting the city's single-sex restrooms to all-gender restrooms. Next steps include having businesses change their restrooms.

4. Budget

There is \$2700 remaining in the budget. Anyone who needs to be reimbursed for anything from this fiscal year should submit the request. The Communications Committee is planning a purchase of supplies for tabling and other events. Kimm is going to look into buying small flags to go on the tables at Pride Brunch. Other expenses that the budget will need to cover include the fee for a performance at Pride Brunch and the registration fee for Youth Pride.

5. Tabling Opportunities

Jessica shared a list of the different opportunities that the Commission might want to consider for the coming spring/summer/fall.

Event	Date	Location
MayFair	May 17, 12:00-6:00 Rain Date: May 31	Harvard Square
Youth Pride	Still unclear. May 16 or May 23	Boston City Hall Plaza
RiverFest	June 6, 11:00-6:00	Memorial Drive
Pride	June 13	
Hoops & Health	Still unclear. June 20? 3 rd Saturday in June?	Hoyt Field
Cambridge Carnival	September 13, 12:00-6:00	Kendall Square
Oktoberfest	October 11, 12:00-6:00 Rain Date: October 25	Harvard Square

6. Possible Logo change

This topic was not discussed.

7. Possible meeting time/date change

This topic was not discussed.

Other topics

- CHA Youth Committee on Mental Health – Leo reported on the Committee, which is an opportunity for

youth to gather and talk about Mental Health. Leo has shared information with others at CRLS and will check on whether other students have expressed an interest.

- Comments on the Commission Facebook page
We discussed about how to best respond to comments on our Facebook posts.

Public Comment / Announcements

There was no public comment or announcements.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2020, 6:00-7:30