

LGBTQ+ Commission January 24, 2019 Minutes

Welcome

Minute Taker – Kimm Topping

Introductions

Commission (present)

John W. Gintell; Aren Stone; Bill Barnert; Jessica Daniels; Noelani Kamelamela; Greg MacDonough; Rachel Oppenheimer; Bob Parlin; Kimm Topping; Silas Weiner; Steven Lee; Susan Bernstein; Maya Escobar; Mal Malme
Amelia Joselow, LGBTQ+ Commission Research Associate

Commission (absent)

Lesley Phillips; Catherine Grams

Guests

Police Commissioner Branville Bard (invited) & Mike McKenzie (public)

Approved Minutes from November Meeting – Minutes Approved
Approve/Modify Agenda – Agenda Approved

Police Department Report

We shared a list of questions with Commissioner Bard one week prior to this meeting. He shared the following responses with us:

1. When was GOAL training last updated? Could we access a copy of the GOAL training syllabus or materials? Do new hires from other cities undergo GOAL training?

Commissioner Bard will invite GOAL to attend a meeting and give us an overview. Kimm Topping will be in touch with Commissioner Bard to make this connection.

2. What protections are in place for transgender people in police custody? In state prisons?

- Cambridge has a specific policy (Policy 231: Preventing Gender Identity Bias) – people are placed in a cell based on their stated gender identity. Protective custody/single cells are an option.
- Protective custody is often used in state prisons.

3. Year-end statistics on hate crimes? Year-end statistics on domestic violence? Data for same-sex partnerships?

- 16 crimes classified as hate crimes (3 LGBTQ+-related, most incidents were anti-Semitic)
- 871 incidents of domestic violence; the department does not break down data by same-sex partnerships

4. Is outreach happening between Cambridge Police and other police departments in the state?

- There are monthly meetings for LGBTQ+ officers

5. Is there any interaction with the LGBTQ+ community that Commissioner Bard wishes to highlight?

- He is interested in finding ways to increase underrepresented folks in the police department through a cadet program. The program is a full time and fully-benefited job for people ages 18-23. The Department is creating recruitment fliers and asked us to share with our networks. The Police Subcommittee will discuss if and how we would participate.

Other Police Subcommittee Notes

- Kimm will schedule a meeting of the Police Subcommittee before our next Commission meeting.
- The Police Subcommittee needs to discuss the following: next date that Commissioner Bard will join us; how we can get feedback from community about relationship with the police department; craft a statement about the changes in our relationship; and discuss endorsement of cadet recruitment.

Report from Amelia Joselow

- Amelia shared a six month work plan with us for the following projects: Senior Housing Project, All Gender Restrooms, and Community Center.
- Amelia is now responsible for the printing and distribution of gender neutral signs for city bathrooms. She will print extra copies to potentially share with businesses.

Youth Committee

- Bill sent out meeting minutes from this committee.
- First priority of this committee is seeking input from youth. Commissioners will contact local schools GSAs and youth organizations to arrange meetings.
- This committee is working on publicizing information about updating gender markers in CRLS database.
- It's time to think about our next educator event. The Queer Friendly Educators Event was initially intended for GSA leaders but hasn't really served that purpose. It has been a useful way of broadcasting information.
- This subcommittee will encourage the library to create an LGBTQ book group.
- Vote: allow Amelia to work on community center idea. Approved.

Handbook Committee

- Jessica shared a list of possible sections for the handbook. Any additional suggestions should be sent to Jessica.
- This committee will work on writing the sections of this handbook and sharing with us for review.

- We discussed paper versus digital format. This is still to be determined. One option is a shorter printed version with essential information and a larger version stored on GoogleDrive.

Brainstorm of 2019 Events

- Our current events include: MayFair, River Fest, Octoberfest, Pride Brunch. We usually host a larger event in the fall. In terms of tabling, should we explore new events and take a break from other events? Amelia has suggestions.
- We need to be aware of timing (a lot of events in spring/summer) and capacity of Commissioners to commit to events.
- We discussed which communities we would like to connect with that we haven't as much recently, like youth.
- Strategic Planning Committee will take this subject. People can email additional ideas to Steven. We agree to plan an event for the fall and recognize that the community center might overlap with this.
- Suggestions for events hosted by us:
 - Author event
 - Rainbow Room
 - Non-binary focused event (library event wasn't well attended) - could tie to Cambridge decision of X gender marker on birth certificates
 - LGBTQ+ family
 - Film series with library (quarterly)

New Commissioner Recruiting Status

- We have four openings. Application became public in early January; deadline is February 8th. Information on applicants will be released from the City manager's office to us by February 8th. We're hoping to get the information earlier if possible.
- There was a complaint about the application requiring binary gender titles (Mr./Mrs.). John will look into having this changed.
- Interview committee includes: Mal, Susan, John, Noe, Rachel, Aren, and Kimm. Steven will coordinate interviews. Amelia can book rooms at 51 Inman.

Birth Certificate Order Status

- John has contacted the Law Department and City Manager to offer our support. No response yet.
- Vote: John can continue to pursue the city/law department with this. Approved.

Public Comment / Announcements

- February 19th Pineapple Project event at the library

Next meeting: Thursday, February 28, 2019

