

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: January 26, 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	X	Jennifer Mathews	x
Bill Barnert	X	Linden Huhmann	x	Amelia Joselow	x
Bob Bordone		Noelani Kamelamela		Phoebe Hallahan	x
Frank Arce	x	Olivia Sevey		GUESTS	
Gregory MacDonough	x	Warner Santiago		Mary Rebecca Gardner	
Kat Long	x				
Kate Grams	x				
Lauryn McNair	x				

Agenda

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Frank Arce

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Bill Barnert

- **Welcome**
- **Assign Minute Taker**
 - Frank volunteered to take minutes
- **Approve / Modify Agenda**
 - Agenda approved as is

- **Approve [December Minutes](#)**
 - Minutes approved unanimously
- **Introductions**
- **Project Updates** (current actions, and plans) including reports from Jennifer, Amelia, & Phoebe.
 - Jennifer Updates:
 - Support letter voted by Commission at December 8, 2022 meeting RE: Prioritize the implementation of a Commission of Racial Justice and Equity in February 2023 crafted, signed (by co-Chairs), and sent to City Manager.
 - Commission vacancies posted and application deadline is February 6, 2023. New Chief of Staff to City Manager, B Kimmerman, will be assisting with the review and interview of applicants. Jennifer will set up meeting between all parties (recruitment working group, B Kimmerman, and herself) to map out strategy and next steps.
 - Posting for LGBTQ+ Friendly Housing Task Force is live and receiving strong interest from varying groups, especially PRYDEE, a LGBTQ Senior Housing Organization.
 - Last meeting before going out on paternal leave. Team will receive additional support from the City Manager's Office and Crystal Rosa, Language Access Manager in the Human Rights Commission office.
 - In the process of hiring a new Director of Operations, additional staff support for LGBTQ+ Commission and other commissions in the department.
 - Phoebe Updates:
 - 2 weeks hosting drop-in hours at Senior Center. Limited in-person engagement but strong interest in programming communicated via email.
 - Soon will be connecting and visiting youth centers and CHA's to introduce and connect.
 - Amelia Updates:
 - Created proposals on the the topics voted by the Commission for further research: Intergenerational Programming, Youth LGBTQ+ Mental Health, and Healthcare Facility LGBTQ+ Inclusion
 - Research proposals sent to Commission on January 24, 2023.
 - Commission discussed and voted for Amelia to proceed forward with the Healthcare Facility LGBTQ+ Inclusion proposal.
 - A running inventory of all proposals will be compiled for future review and/or usage.
- **Working Group Reports**
 - All-Gender Bathrooms
 - No updates
 - Budget
 - No updates
 - City Forms

- No updates
- Communications -
 - A January newsletter went out this past week. We are in the process of reviewing the Links & Resources document on our website, and brainstorming some improvements to the website in general.
- Community Center -
 - Reconvening Feb. 1; might need to revisit working group make up and maybe identify new members.
- Diversity ^[1]_[SEP]
 - No updates
- Events
 - Applied for Starlight Square. We will see when it gets close if there is enough energy to make it happen. Phoebe volunteered to help coordinate.
- Handbook
 - The WG is almost finished reviewing/updating these two documents. A meeting is being scheduled, and after that we will present to the full Commission for comments.
- Housing
 - The Working Group met and reviewed a working draft survey that will be shared with the Commission prior to City staff. RE: Community survey on zoning restrictions on 3+ people living together to get a pulse of understanding and impact in housing decision making. Amelia is working on finalizing the draft to be presented at the next Working Group meeting and then internal City Staff, i.e. Zoning and Community Outreach & Engagement, and then Communications team.
 - Goal to have a final survey for Commission to review at the February meeting.
- Public Health & Safety
 - No update
- Pride Brunch
 - No update
- Recruitment - Working group met on 1/19, Frank, Noe, and Greg, and will be providing/posting flyers, sharing with various networks, and we encourage all Commissioners to spread the word. Focus on diversity in recruitment.
- Strategic Planning
 - No update
- Youth - The Youth WG was down to four members (Amelia, Bill, Kate, & Noe), and now with Kate stepping down, we'll be down to three. We need to either recruit a couple more commissioners, or go on hiatus for a while.
- **Old Business**

If any commissioners are interested in joining the LGBTQ+-Friendly Housing Task Force, you should apply like anyone else. (See the January newsletter, or go to CambridgeMA.gov/apply.)

- **New Business**
- **Report from Rainbows Across Communities**
 - No update
- **Public Comments / Announcements**
 - Member of the public in attendance and provided comment - Mary Rebecca Gardner relocated to Cambridge with wife, interested in becoming a Commissioner and will be applying.
 - Jennifer's Parental Leave is scheduled for Feb 17 – Late July.
 - Somerville has a new LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator:
Izzy Starr (they/them/theirs) – Office: 617-625-6600 ext. 2404 –
Cell: 781-823-9046 – IStarr@SomervilleMA.gov
 - Bill will be having heart surgery in February (currently scheduled for Feb. 28th, but that could change. He just wants everyone to know that he will be out of commission for a while.
- **Next Commission Meeting:** Thursday, February 23, 2023, Zoom
(*Commission meetings to remain virtual for the time being.*)

*To view the meeting or to participate in public comment, email
Amelia Joselow <AJoselow@CambridgeMA.gov>.*