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Carolina Almonte

Executive Director

LGBTQ+ Meeting Minutes – January Meeting

Present: Chairs Bill Barnert and Zachary Dresser, Commissioners Kat Long, Linden Huhmann, Bob Bordone, Caitlin Egleson, Finley Foster, Mary Gardner, Cindy Telingator, Vincent Monrreal, Emmy Howe, Frank Arce, Noelani Kamelamela, Gregory Macdonough
Staff: Executive Director Carolina Almonte, Director of Operations Sarah Binney, LGBTQ+ Research Associate Amelia Joselow, LGBTQ+ Program Leader Phoebe Hallahan

Absent: Commissioners Evan Mackay, Frank Arce, Sukia Akiba

1. **Call to order**
 - Chair Barnert called this meeting to order at 6:09pm.
2. **Review and approval of agenda**
 - No Commissioners had any additions to the agenda.
3. **Review and approval of December 2024 minutes**
 - Commissioner Macdonough moved to approve December minutes. Commissioner Howe seconded.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - ED Almonte
 - ED Almonte shared that she has been working on the budget proposals for FY26. Commissioner Huhmann asked about budget for Domestic Partnership Zine illustration and printing. ED Almonte explained that small budget requests could be approved from existing Commission budget, but larger requests for funding may be more challenging. Those could be requested via appropriation or asked for during the next budget cycle.
 - ED Almonte has been in touch with the office of Mayor Simmons to coordinate a time for her to come to the LGBTQ+ Commission and begin pride planning.
 - DOO Binney
 - Upcoming event- **Legal Protections for the LGBTQ+ Family** - Date: Wednesday January 29, 2025, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM- Join the LGBTQ+ Commission for an online workshop presented by Egleson Sturges, LLC about establishing Legal Parentage and Estate Planning for the LGBTQ+ Community.

- Upcoming event- **STI Workshop & Free STI Testing Clinic**- Date: Monday February 3, 2025, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM- Join the LGBTQ+ Commission and Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) for a workshop about sexually transmitted infections (STI) and a free STI testing clinic. Commissioner volunteers are needed for tabling. Commissioners Kamelamela, Macdonough, and Monrreal volunteered to table.
- RA Joselow
 - Amelia has joined the Advisory Board of the Office of HIV/AIDS, part of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. They are seeking members with lived experience and/or part of priority groups: Black and Latinx individuals, men who have sex with men, and transgender individuals living with HIV. Subject-matter experts may also apply. If interested, Commissioners may contact the Coordinator, Heather Trites (they/them) at Heather.Trites@mass.gov. If Commissioners know someone who would be a good fit, RA Joselow asks that they share this information.
 - RA Joselow is working on a digital space that collects LGBTQ+ gathering spaces.
- PL Hallahan
 - The LGBTQ+ Commission has Cambridge Welcomes stickers and window decals with pride flags for organizations, businesses, etc. To put up.
 - Upcoming event- **Name Change Workshop with Massachusetts Trans Political Coalition** - Date: February 11, 5:00pm – 8:00pm (Main Library) - Join the City of Cambridge, the City of Somerville, and the Mass Trans Political Coalition (MTPC) for a workshop about the legal name change process. Commissioner volunteers are needed for tabling. Commissioners Foster and Gardner volunteered to table.
 - PL Hallahan is in conversation with CRLS about how the LGBTQ+ Commission can support CRLS Community Pride Day. Commissioner Monrreal expressed interest in supporting this project.

5. Working Group Reports

- Outreach – outreach working group needs new lead. Commissioner Macdonough volunteered to lead this working group.
- Seniors – met for a preliminary discussion about possible community offerings
- Youth
 - Upcoming Event - Welcoming Schools Day of Reading – Friday, February 28 4:00pm-5:00pm (Central Square Library)- Join the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission and the Cambridge Public Library for the 10th Anniversary Welcoming Schools National Day of Reading: A Celebration of Trans Stories. At this all-ages story time, librarians will read aloud from books that support and affirm transgender and non-binary youth and celebrate gender diversity for everyone.
 - Discussed how to continue work with local GSAs that the working group was doing before the Pandemic.
 - A DCF Foster Parent Recruiter gave a presentation for the Youth Working Group about recruiting LGBTQ+-inclusive foster parents. They are hoping that he can present to the full Commission.

6. New Business

- Commissioner Howe proposed an event in collaboration with the Cambridge Public Library featuring a screening of the short documentary *Ephemera* about Libby Bouvier's

activist button collection, with an opportunity for participants to share about and make their own buttons. Commissioner Howe moved to approve this program. Commissioner Macdonough seconded. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve this program

- Commissioners should prepare for a co-chair election in April. Commissioner terms last 1 year, and the role includes facilitating Commissioner meetings, preparing the agendas, and meeting with the staff before each meeting to discuss the agenda.

7. **Rainbows Across Communities**

- Join the Arlington LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission and the Human Rights Commission for an afternoon at Roasted Granola on January 26th from 2:30pm to 4:30pm to celebrate the generosity, diversity, and connectedness that makes the Town of Arlington such a special place.
- Rainbows Across Communities discussed how they could respond to potential changes in laws relating to gender-inclusive bathroom access.

8. **Adjournment** – Chair Barnert moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm. Commissioner Howe seconded.