

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

689 Mass Ave, Second Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139

Telephone: (617) 349-3355 | Email: lgbtq@cambridgema.gov | TTY: (617) 492-0235

Shameka Gregory, Executive Director

LGBTQ+ Commission Outreach & Visibility Working Group Minutes

Date: 01/07/2026

Location: Zoom*

Present: Greg MacDonough (Chair), Bill Barnert (scribe), Noe Kamelamela

Called to order at 6:04

1. **Assign minute taker:** Bill
2. **Previous Minutes Approved** (*at last meeting*)
3. **Review status of previous Action Items:**
 - [] ALL: Use that paragraph to recruit people – do not promise that they will be on the panel but ask if they'd be interested. -- Tabled Again. Now that the holidays have passed, it's time to get on this.
 - [] Greg/Bill: Ask the rest of the Commission for suggested contacts (& whether they'd be willing to do an introduction before we contact them). - We will do this at the Dec. 11th meeting. But we need to do it again & send email.
 - [X] Bill: create a spreadsheet of people to contact so we don't duplicate calling the same person.
DONE: [Contacts for Queer Intentional Families Panel.xlsx](#)
 - NOTE: The recruitment letter is attached as **ITEM 1**.
4. **Old Business**
 - Planning for Spring event
 - We have the CPL Main Branch Lecture Hall reserved for Thursday evening, April 9, 2025
 - Food: We would like to have food.
 1. Option 1: We pay for it (perhaps by requesting additional funds from the city)
 2. Option 2: We get donations from restaurants
 - Info tables: We should invite other groups to staff info tables. We assigned WG members to each group on our list:

Bourin You, Karen Manna	Noe
YWCA (Puja)	Noe
Sam Musher, CRLS	Bill

Other Cambridge Public Schools	Bill
The LGBTQ+ Commission	Greg
Other Commissions? (Ask Shemeka to coordinate?)	Greg
Cambridge Health Alliance	Greg

- Audio/Visual: The library will handle, but we will need to coordinate. Projector & Screen? How many mics? Tables & chairs.
- Do we want to have it both In-Person & Zoom?
 1. We could just do a broadcast
 2. We could coordinate questions from Zoom
 3. Suggestion if it works: Have a mic stand that people can line up at, AND index cards from audience, AND questions from Zoom (via index cards?)
 4. We will discuss with library & take their advice.,
- Publicity:
 1. Newsletter
 2. Coordinate publicity with invited groups
 3. Send info to EVERY queer group we can think of to pass on.
 4. Flyer (City Hall may do this) - We should recruit commissioners to distribute. Libraries, Senior Center, City Hall, more.
 5. DPW could make sandwich signs.
 6. How far out do we start? Depends on the newsletter, etc. Send early to those with deadlines. Reminder emails the week before. We'll set a deadline of having the event all planned & publicity started; Feb. 28th
 7. Title for event: **Queer Intentional Families: A Panel Discussion on Queer Adoptions & Fostering in Massachusetts**

5. **New Business**

6. **Approved this meeting's minutes**

7. **Next Meeting Date and Time:** Wed. Feb. 4th, 2026 (1st Wednesday) 6pm

8. **Adjourned at 6:47**

***ZOOM LINK**

https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rm2XGf46S0abguGviYoISQ

ITEM 1: The Recruitment Letter

The Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission is hosting an LGBTQ+ adoption & fostering discussion on April 9th at the Cambridge Public Library. We are looking for panelists to share or present about their experiences with adoption or fostering in Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF), or can speak to the following:

1. Confirmatory adoption or second parent adoption
2. Queer-identified parent adoption or fostering through the state involving DCF
3. Queer-identified youth adoption or fostering through the state involving DCF.

We would like the panel to include a diverse array of individuals and are looking for the following:

1. Parents
2. Potential parents
3. Queer young adults (18+)
4. DCF attorneys
5. Attorneys specializing in adoption in Massachusetts

If you or anyone you know fits this description and would like to share their experiences with an audience, please send their contact information to lgbtq@cambridgema.gov.

Please note that a submission does not guarantee a panel spot. We are excited to meet with any interested parties to discuss their experience.

Thank you,