

Shameka Gregory  
Executive Director

## Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

### MINUTES:

May 28, 2026

**Location:** Hybrid-689 Mass. Ave. & Zoom

**Neighborhood:** City Wide

### Contact

- Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission <[LGBTQ@Cambridgema.gov](mailto:LGBTQ@Cambridgema.gov)>
- 617-349-3355

### Agenda

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Zachary Dresser  
Tonight's meeting chaired by: Zachary Dresser

### Attendance

**In Person:** Chair Dresser, Commissioners McDonough, Kamelamela, Foster, Bordone

**Virtual:** Commissioners Huhmann, Arce

**Absent:** Chair Barnert, Commissioners Howe, MacKay, Egleston, Monrreal

### Call to Order

Chair Dresser called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm

- **Welcome**
- **Approve / Modify Agenda**
- **Approve Previous Minutes:**
  - Chair Dresser motions to approve meeting minutes for 4/23/26. Commissioner McDonough seconds. All approve

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- **Introductions:** If you had a completely free day with no obligations or budget limits, how would you spend it?
- **Updates on Previous Action Items**
  - Re: Rose Lipkin Award (Pride):
    - Move to full pride discussion later in meeting
  - Re: Budget:
    - \$5000 increase request was denied. Question to Commission if they want to continue to hold Pride celebration at a large scale. Means being very thrifty with budget through the year for other programming. Move to next meeting after Pride to discuss.
  - Re: Working Group mission, goals, & purpose.
    - Commissioner Monrreal will look at archives and figure out where to go from there
      - Commissioner Monrreal absent. Move to next meeting.
  - Re: Inconsistencies in housing recommendations compared to current housing applications.
    - City Staff joined Trans Sanctuary Working Group Meeting in May
      - Three staff attended from affordable housing and others relevant areas. Went through recommendations and where each item is now. Useful conversations. Staff noticed discrepancies in their own applications. Some good news. Some places where it isn't possible to make a lot of movement. Places where there are more than 2 romantic partners who do not wish to share a bedroom. Unable to accommodate that. Will continue to work through what's possible. Working group not able to debrief. Will debrief at next meeting and discuss next steps.
  - Re: Recruitment poster for youth commissioner -
    - Flyer provided. Commissioner Monrreal tabled at Youth Pride on May 16<sup>th</sup>
      - <https://cambridgema.ig2.com/Citizens/Board/Vacant>
      - Membership open to allies as well
      - Process after application? Chairs and ED will speak with applicants. If others want to participate, they are welcome. Reminder that final decision doesn't lie with Commission. Goes to City Manager then Council.
      - Commissioner MacDonough volunteers to be part of interviews
  - ED Gregory to send blank "Hearts for Queer Youth" to Commissioners electronically & collect responses for Sam Musher (CPS). **[Sent Mon, Mar 30]**
    - Share photos of completed display!
      - Shared!
- **Project Updates** (current actions & plans, including reports from ED Gregory)
  - *(Monthly until resolved)*: Status update on Fair Housing Ordinance change in definition of sexualities
    - Language did not pass in Human Rights Meeting. ED Gregory sent updated language from HRC with Commission on 5/4/26.

- Updated language “Sexual orientation means an actual or perceived enduring emotional, romantic, or physical attraction, or lack of attraction, to others based on sex or gender. For example, sexual orientations may include, but are not limited to, heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, omniseual, pansexual, queer, or asexual.”

**1. No updates. Commission okay with edited language**

- **Working Group Reports**

- Outreach & Visibility WG (Commissioner MacDonough)
  - Billboard sign completed and submitted for print
    - Love billboard.
    - Been looking for outreach projects. Considering aligning with Pride prom for Arlington. Tried to volunteer but need a CORI. Sam from Somerville. Already connected with them. Had 114 students attend.
- Policy & Advocacy (Commissioner Monrreal)
- Pride (ED Gregory)
  - June 20<sup>th</sup> 11-3 pm
    - No speaking to press as a Commissioner/representative of the City, only as resident.
  - Vendors secured. Still recruiting for people to table
    - 3 food trucks, 2 performers, 2 face painters, balloon animals, ice cream truck, DJ, 2 Queer owned businesses, bounce house
  - ED Gregory will send volunteer sign up and scheduling form
  - Any identifying clothing or items possessed by Commissioners?
    - May be extra t-shirts. Check with Carolina. Need other identifying items.
  - Need nominations for Rustin Award.
    - Excellent candidate nominated. May be more before deadline.
  - Reached out to Project 10 Advisor and Sam Musher for Lipkin Award
    - Excellent candidate put forth by Jessica & Sam
    - Cambridge student awarded state wide recognition as well. Agree to request Mayor’s office acknowledge this student during Pride
  - Outreach to notify neighbors on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> if anyone is able to participate
    - Zack checking to see if he can assist
  - MC-Chair Dresser and Commissioner MacDonough will co-emcee the event
  - Chair Dresser will bring decorations from his office for the event
- Public Health & Safety WG (Commissioner Monrreal)
- Seniors WG (Commissioner MacKay)
  - Book Club
    - Going extremely well. Great discussion. About 10 participants each time. One participant saw community member reading the

book on the train and they shared about the book club then came together!

- Trans Sanctuary WG (Commissioner Foster)
  - Meeting with City staff regarding housing rules, terminology, etc.
  - Pool Party really wonderful. Unsure about capacity to do more than 1 a year. Prioritize an outdoor one over the summer. Clear that people wanted something else in the winter but reality of it is difficult. July/August. May be possible for August.
  - Gender Inclusion Ordinance- ED Gregory met with Sean McKendry from law department. Reminded him that request is to review if proposed ordinance is legal and if so, would it be best suited as a policy order through the Council or a City policy through City Manager? ED Gregory also included potential changes regarding ability for employees to use chosen names in the hiring process and with their emails as part of conversation.
- Youth WG (Commissioner Howe)
  - Somerville staff touching base with students. Interested in partnering with Arlington for Queer Youth Ball
- **Old Business**
  - An organization called webinar.tv contacted us to tell us that they were highlighting one of our Working Group meetings to entice people to watch it. But we don't want our meetings recorded or published, so ED Gregory is talking to IT about this.
    - ED Gregory spoke to IT. They have no leads as to how to address the issue. Keeping an eye on it and will revisit if necessary.
  - Zine Updates
    - ED Gregory working on edited language based on materials/information provided by Chair Barnert and Commissioner Huhmann. Sending to artist for updated zine.
    - Updates shared via email. No discussion.
  - Sam Musher (CPS) has invited us to collaborate on the showing of a film ***The Dads***. ("Amid rising anti-trans legislation and hostility in the US, dads forming a movement to support their trans and gender expansive children face an impossible choice.") There is a 10-minute short film & a 1:12 documentary version. <https://www.thedadsfoundation.org/host-a-screening-or-fundraiser>
    - Will screen shortened version during Pride
  - We have been contacted by two queer performers, Joel Light and Dan Moore, and asked if we would like to do a one-hour LGBTQ+ sing-along "participatory celebration of LGBTQ+ Songs."
    - Commissioners have additional questions. Feel that if it's free, it's a no brainer activity to offer.
    - Questions
      1. Is there a timeline?
        - a. Availability June 20, 23 and 30, July 4, 7, 9, 11, 28, and 30

2. Is it a kid's program?
  - a. No response. Suggested again working with Senior Center
3. Suggested senior center
4. Pricing
  - a. Can perhaps discount fee to \$225/\$200
5. Would they participate in another event?
  - a. Possible. Need indoor setting with good acoustics
6. Any video or anything to view?
  - a. Chair Barnert sent instagram link
    - i. Commissioners would like to put energy, resources, and time into things they are coming up with and/or hearing from the community. Will keep performers in mind for anything that may come up. ED Gregory will respond.

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- **New Business**

- Commission recruitment opened May 19<sup>th</sup>. Applications open until June 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Discussed earlier in meeting
- Bios
  - Introductions, sharing about each other, what brings each person to this work. Personal, not professional. Commission would like to move forward with this. ED Gregory will look on sharepoint for additional information and prepare to move forward when new members join.
- Staff hours/Vacation (where to email meeting agendas)
  - Staff hours are M 8:30-8, T,W,Th 8:30-5, F 8:30-12. Keep in mind when sending agendas etc.
  - ED on vacation 6/9-6/15. Out again 6/19-6/22
  - Email any agendas/needs to zye@cambridgema.gov
- Program Manager
  - Zhiren Ye hired and starts June 1. Outstanding candidate!
- "Cured" film opportunity
  - Commission watched trailer and open to holding a viewing.
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_0Uj1kYfsYQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0Uj1kYfsYQ)

- **Public Comments / Announcements**

- Upcoming films in the LGBTQ+ Film Series at the Cambridge Senior Center (First Tuesdays, 10am):
  - June 2: ***The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*** - When drag queen Anthony (Hugo Weaving) agrees to take his act on the road, he invites fellow cross-dresser Adam (Guy Pearce) and trans Bernadette (Terence Stamp) to come along. In their colorful bus, named Priscilla, the three performers travel across the Australian desert performing for enthusiastic crowds and homophobic locals. But when the other two performers learn the truth about why Anthony took the job, it threatens their act and their friendship.

- **Next Commission Meeting:** Thursday, June 25th, 6-7:30pm, Hybrid\*
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- Meeting adjourned by Chair Dresser at 7:21 pm

\* **Hybrid meeting info**

**GUESTS:** Please let us know if you will be coming, and whether you will be joining us in person or via Zoom by emailing [LGBTQ@CambridgeMA.gov](mailto:LGBTQ@CambridgeMA.gov).

**To join in person,** come to 689 Mass. Ave, Cambridge. If the front door is locked, call us at 617-349-3355. Come up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and follow the signs.

**To join via Zoom,** join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/89723365868>

Meeting ID: 897 2336 5868

One tap mobile +19294362866,,89723365868# US (New York)