

**June 23, 2016 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

The NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the June 23 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the May 26 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Bob Parlin, Mason Weintraub, Rachel Oppenheimer, Aren Stone, Maya Escobar, Bill Barnert, Kevin Shpritzer, Susan Bernstein, Lesley Phillips, Anna Weick, Jessica Daniels, Steven Lee, Kimm Topping

Comissioners Absent: (excused) Mal Malme, Linda Daniels, Sylvia Guerra,
(leave of absence) Ted Waechter

Welcome

I. Police Report

- a. Detective Brian O'Connor could not attend tonight's meeting and sent an email update.
- b. His first Pride Brunch was a great experience.
- c. The City is currently finalizing the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) training with the legal department.
- d. Their intention is to issue the RFP this summer so that training can commence this fall.
- e. He has been in contact with both Dave McLelland from GOAL (Gay Officers Action League) New England and Danielle Thomas from Pro EMS.
 - i. They are working together to provide training to the employees of Professional Ambulance.

II. Diversity Committee

- a. The committee met on 6/14.
- b. They set an agenda for items on which the group will focus.

III. Transgender Arts Event

- a. This event will be November 17, in the evening, at the YWCA Cambridge.
- b. Exact time is TBD.
- c. They will be putting out a call to artists soon.
- d. We will need to reschedule the Commission's November meeting to accommodate this event.

IV. Pride Brunch

- a. Commissioners who attended shared their experiences.
- b. Most in attendance were connected to organizations involved or were past attendees. There were few new attendees who heard about it via word-of-mouth or through our tabling at events.
- c. There were a few empty seats in the chamber, but it was mostly full.

- d. Bill has created a document to help the Brunch run smoothly in the future and a committee is meeting to finalize it.

V. LGBT World Boston/State Department Delegation meeting – 6/21

- a. A group of LGBTQ activists from around the world, sponsored by the State Department, met with the Cambridge Police Department and GLBT Commission members Aren and Bill to discuss LGBTQ issues.
- b. Police Commissioner Chris Burke spoke about the Police Department's work with the LGBTQ community, especially the LGBTQ cultural competency training that all Cambridge police recruits get and that the training has extended to other police departments and public safety officials. Aren and Bill spoke about the work of the Commission. The delegation members were impressed with how proactive the police have been and that the city has an official Commission charged with advocating for LGBTQ people.
- c. The delegation included activists from South Africa, Turkey, Guyana, India, Mozambique, South Korea, and Slovakia.

VI. Request from Cambridge Employee Diversity Committee

- a. Kimberly Sansoucy, Executive Director of the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women, is also a member of the Employee Diversity Committee, which holds discussions and events for Cambridge city employees. She sent an email to the Commission.
- b. The Employee Diversity Committee would like us to co-sponsor an event of people sharing stories about what it's like to be LGBTQ in the workplace.
- c. They are hoping to hold the event in July.
- d. Our co-sponsorship would consist of giving feedback on their agenda, helping to find storytellers, and the use of the Commission logo.
- e. The Commission voted to co-sponsor the event.

VII. Response to Orlando

- a. Muslim community leaders would like to partner with the Commission to respond to the tragic events in Orlando.
- b. We agreed that sometime in the early fall would be ideal for this event.
- c. Aren, Bill, John, Bob, Jessica, Susan, and Maya volunteered to be on a subcommittee to organize this event.

VIII. Commission Party

- a. Bill will be hosting a pot-luck bbq for commissioners on August 25.

IX. River Festival – 6/4

- a. The new location along the river was well-attended and the event went well.

X. All Gender Bathrooms

- a. The committee will continue after the Massachusetts Trans Rights bill is signed into law. There may be language in the bill that will inform the committee's work.

XI. Cambridge Needs Assessment Forum

- a. John attended this forum.

- b. There is \$3.7 million in the Cambridge city budget that can be used for general city improvement.
- c. They are looking for ideas for how to make the best use of this money.

XII. Facebook Policy

- a. The Commission talked in the past about creating a policy regarding the use of our Facebook page. Bill put forward a motion that we finalize a policy.
- b. John, Mason, and Bill will work on this.

XIII. Party to welcome gay Syrian man to Cambridge

- a. Members of the Commission were instrumental in making it possible for a gay Syrian man to attend Harvard Divinity School this Fall.
- b. Tony will be arriving in Cambridge in August, and will be staying at the home of a Commissioner.
- c. A welcome party for Tony will be on Sunday, September 11 at the University Lutheran Church. 66 Winthrop St in Harvard Square. The party is open to the public.

XIV. Name Change Discussion

- a. The name change committee, Jessica, Anna, Ted and Steven, have been meeting to prepare for a Commission discussion about changing our name.
- b. They formulated goals for a new name, solicited ideas from commissioners, and developed a set of suggestions for the commission to discuss.
- c. The goals for a new name are that it:
 - i. Be inclusive but not too general
 - ii. Be relevant and up to date, but flexible and enduring
 - iii. Communicate who we are
 - iv. Something not off-putting
 - v. Something powerful
 - vi. Something affirming
 - vii. It should be marketable
- d. Commissioners discussed each of the suggested new names put forth by the subcommittee.
- e. The discussion will span at least two meetings to allow ideas to marinate and for all commissioners to be able to have their ideas heard.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm