

**October 22, 2015 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015**

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the October 22 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the September 24 meeting were approved.

**Commissioners Present:** Jessica Daniels, Mal Malme, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Bill Barnert, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Kristina Mastropasqua, Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee, Bob Parlin, John Gintell

**Commissioners Absent:** (excused) – Anna Weick – (unexcused) – Lesley Phillips, Maya Escobar

**Guests:** Chris Burke (Superintendent of Cambridge Police), Elysia Chandler (Commission intern), Jeannie Simmons (Photographer funded through the Cambridge Arts Council and professor at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts)

**I. Police Report**

- a. A first draft of the training proposal for LGBTQ cultural competency training of all municipal employees has been created.
- b. The next step is to formalize the “Request for Proposal” (RFP).
- c. Training will likely begin this coming winter or spring.
- d. The Lowell Police Academy is finalizing its training.
  - i. The total graduating class has 48 officers with 8 Cambridge student officers. All 48 will receive the GOAL (Gay Officer’s Action League) New England sensitivity training.

**II. Recent Events Reports**

- a. Oktoberfest – October 11
  - i. Lots of people came by the table. We got lots of thumbs ups.
  - ii. The table ran out of wrist bands and bubbles, and the chip clips were popular.
- b. Cambridge Black Lives Matter – October 14
  - i. The event was well attended.
  - ii. City Councilor Denise Simmons thanked Elle Hearn for her activism with a Proclamation from the City.
- c. Film showing: The Year We Thought About Love – October 15
  - i. This event was very well attended.
  - ii. The food-wrangling committee did a wonderful job getting donations.
  - iii. Rachel took some photos and asked for the best place to post them online.
    1. She will create a photo album on the Commission’s Facebook page.

**III. Future Events**

- a. Spring 2016: Partnering with the library on a reading by LGBTQ authors from the Boston area

- i. We have offered to support the library with this event but not take the lead.
  - ii. We still need local authors to join. Let Bill or Marilyn Gagalis at the Library know if you have any suggestions.
- b. Spring 2016: Commission event
  - i. We'd like to have our own event in the spring.
  - ii. Our format of putting on a film followed by a discussion panel has been successful at attracting and educating crowds.
  - iii. Aren suggested partnering with people from the MTPC (Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition) to put on an event.
    - 1. Bill will reach out to the MTPC to start the discussion.
  - iv. Mal suggested reaching out to Jennifer Finney Boylan, a transgender author and political activist, who has a new book out and is a notable speaker.
  - v. She also suggested reaching out to Kate Bornstein, an author and longtime transgender activist.
- c. ASL interpreters and closed captioning
  - i. It was challenging getting an interpreter through the City for the film showing, but it all worked out well.
  - ii. Nancy Schlacter, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, submitted the application to the City for us.
  - iii. The interpreter cost was \$208. The Human Rights Commission covered the cost, for which we are very thankful.
  - iv. The interpreter was wonderful for the introductions and the panel discussion.
  - v. Unfortunately, the closed-captioning on the film was broken, which was problematic for a few guests at the showing.
  - vi. The film producer will be sending those guests copies of the film with functioning closed captioning.
  - vii. We learned that we are not supposed to advertise that we will have an interpreter, but rather we need to ask attendees to request one by a certain date.
  - viii. Aren and John will look into procedures that we can follow to secure funding for interpreters at future events.
- d. Supply Cart
  - i. Bill requested money to purchase a new cart.
  - ii. Steven requested allocation of up to \$150 for the new cart. The Commission approved the allocation.
  - iii. Bill and Steven will coordinate and make the purchase.

#### **IV. LGBT Seniors Health Care Report**

- a. Elysia provided an update
  - i. She, Aren, and John are following up with both participating and non-participating health care organizations.
  - ii. One follow-up meeting has already occurred that went very well.
  - iii. Other meetings have been arranged at a number of facilities, and she is awaiting responses from some others.
  - iv. Mal asked about what follow-up the Commission should have with the facilities after these meetings. Elysia will contact them several weeks after meeting with them to ask if they have made any of the suggested changes and if they would like any further support.

- v. Aren would like a PDF of the report to be posted online for the public to view (one without the names of facilities).
  - 1. John will take the lead on getting the report on the front page of our website.
- vi. A “teaser” of the report will hopefully be published in the LGBTQ Policy Journal from the Harvard Kennedy School.
- vii. Elysia has sent the report to the LGBT Aging Project and the Somerville Council on Aging.
  - 1. We’d like her to send it to other Commissions and the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services.

**V. LGBT Seniors Housing – Policy and Practices project**

- a. Elysia reviewed the project goals and timeline with the Commission.
  - i. We want to interview people who oversee the policies and practices on senior housing in the City with regards to LGBT inclusivity.
  - ii. She would like to be more organization-specific in regards to collecting and reporting data, as opposed to in a more general way as was done for the healthcare project.
  - iii. There is not a lot already written as to best practices in the field of LGBTQ senior housing, as there is in health care, so interviewing officials at the housing facilities first may be helpful.

**VI. Community Engagement Team Event**

- a. The Community Engagement Team (CET) is a multi-agency collaborative that reaches out to under-served Cambridge families and connects them to community events and resources, develops community leaders, and supports agencies in working with a diverse community.
- b. The head of the CET, Carol Souza, asked if we would like to be involved in planning/sponsoring an LGBTQ-focused community meeting.
  - i. Past meetings have been held at Cambridge College on Massachusetts Avenue.
  - ii. December 10 and 17 were two proposed dates.
  - iii. Aren and John met with Carol Souza and Nancy Schlacter
- c. A planning meeting will be held on November 3 from 11:30-1:00 at 5 Western Ave. John and Aren will attend and other Commissioners are invited.
- d. We decided we would like to be involved in the planning/sponsoring of this event.

**VII. Membership**

- a. Maggie Giles has resigned from the Commission but hopes to be able to rejoin again in the future.
- b. Neil MacInnes-Barker is also resigning from the Commission as he has accepted the position as the City’s Director of Veterans’ Services.
- c. We currently have 13 commissioners, leaving us with 7 openings.
  - i. The communications and strategic planning subcommittees will take on the task of publicizing the openings.
- d. John will take care of putting an initial post on our website.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm