

In attendance: Jessica Daniels, Devontae Freeland, John Gintell, Bill Barnert, Greg MacDonough, Aren Stone, Rachel Oppenheimer, Noe Kamelamela, Steven Lee, Silas Weiner, Lesley Phillips, Maya Escobar, Abby Duker

Absent: Mal Malme, Kimm Topping, Linda Daniels, Kate Grams, Susan Bernstein, Bob Parlin On Leave: Anna Weick

Guests: Detective Brian O'Connor, Cambridge Police Department liaison; Elysia Chandler, former Commission Researcher; Joe Caldwell, Cambridge Health Alliance; Elvira Soares, Cambridge Health Alliance; Jackie Schwartz, Boston University journalism student; Samuel Kim, Northeastern University journalism student

Approve Minutes from July Meeting
Modified and approved Agenda

Police Report

- Brian O'Connor reported that he was going to meet with Commissioner Bard, the new Police Commissioner, and that Comm. Bard would like to attend a Commission meeting.
- Hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people in Cambridge remain at 2 for the year, one a domestic violence incident and one an assault. Both are being investigated.
- GOAL (Gay Officers Action League) did their training on working with LGBTQ residents at the Lowell Police Academy, which included new recruits to Police Departments in Cambridge, Lowell, Somerville, Everett, Salem, Malden, Hopkington, MIT, and UMASS.

Events

- Oct 8 - Oktoberfest We will table at this event. Jessica is the coordinator.
- Nov 9 - LGBTQ+ Immigrants & Asylum Seekers: Challenges, Experiences, Freedom Bill has been leading the planning for this event, cosponsored by the Immigrant Rights and Citizenship Commission. We will have lawyers speak, show clips from films about LGBTQ people in Uganda and Cameroon, have a panel of asylees and immigrants, and tabling by organizations.

Meeting with City Manager

- John and Aren met with City Manager Louis DePasquale, Deputy City Manager Lisa Peterson, and City Manager Aide Taha Jennings.
- Discussion included creating a new job description for a new Researcher. our budget, funding for Youth On Fire (youth homeless daytime shelter), and All Gender bathrooms

LGBT Youth Out of School Time Activities – Policies and Practices project

- Elysia Chandler, Commission Researcher, has a new job and will no longer be working for the city. She'll be finishing up some work on the current project. The Commission said goodbye to her with great praise and thanks for her work on this project and the senior health care and housing projects.
- Taha Jennings is working on a new job description and will be posting it soon.
- Elysia gave an update on the project. She received 155 surveys from 35 different organizations, including sports and arts organizations, and the city's youth centers.
- She's preparing an Executive Summary.
- Tasks for a new Researcher may include running some focus groups with young people, documenting best practices and training recommendations for organizations, and creating a Story Map.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

- Changing the term to All Gender Bathrooms.
- The Human Rights Commission is preparing a training for Cambridge businesses on the Public Accommodations portion of the Transgender Rights Bill which includes a lot of information on a;; gender bathrooms.

- Kimm and Elysia have been involved in planning these trainings and Kimm will be providing parts of the training.

SOGI Training Report

- The city's SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) training for all city employees, requested by the Commission, has started. The feedback so far has been very positive.

Committees

- All of the Commission's committees need to meet.
- Strategic Planning, Communications, Diversity, All Gender Bathrooms
- Leads on these committees should arrange meetings

New Members

- It's time to start thinking about new members for next year. Commission members whose terms expire at the end of the year will need to decide if they are staying on.

Public Comment / Announcements

- Joe Caldwell and Elvira Soares talked about their work in HIV (and other STDs) prevention, especially in immigrant communities where it is difficult for people to be open about their sexuality and people, especially MSM (men who have sex with men) aren't willing to get tested for HIV.
- The Census Bureau announced that they were taking a question about sexual orientation out of their national survey—"Census Barriers, Attitudes, and Motivators Survey". They reversed that decision after pressure from the LGBTQ+ community.

Next Meeting – Oct 26