

LGBTQ+ Commission Minutes May 25, 2017 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Attending: Susan Bernstein, Aren Stone, Maya Escobar, Jessica Daniels, John Gintell, Silas Weiner, Greg MacDonough, Steven Lee, Catherine Grams, Noelani Kamelamela, Bill Barnert, Rachel Oppenheimer, Mal Malme, Kimm Topping, Bob Parlin
Absent: Abby Dukker, Anna Weick, Linda Daniels, Lesley Phillips
On Leave: Devontae Freeland
Guests: Police Dept. Liaison Detective Brian O'Connor, Community member Minh Nguyen

Commissioner Devontae Freeland will be taking a leave of absence for the summer.

Modified Agenda/Approved Agenda Approved Minutes from April Meeting

Police Report

Detective Brian O'Connor informed us that the Police IT department has created an email address specifically for the LGBTQ+ community and Police Department correspondence.

- pdlgbtq@cambridgepolice.org is operational as of today. All communications sent to this email address will go to Det. O'Connor.
- LGBTQ+ Outreach page can be found at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/cpd/communityresources/lgbtqoutreach>
- The Commission will post this information on its Facebook page.

Hate Crime Statistics as reported by the Cambridge Police Department

Year	Total	Racial	Religious	Sexual Orientation
2015	15	6	7	2
2016	25	16	5	4
2017 (through April)	6	5	1	0

Past Event Participation

- May Fair May 7 Jessica arranged with the DPW for our table and assigned people to different time slots. Gave out swag, met some notables and handed out a lot of information in Harvard Square.
- Youth Pride May 20 Bob made the arrangements and coordinated Commissioners for tabling. Handed out swag, lots of kids came (around 500) from around the state to Government Center, they really loved the temporary tattoos.
- Gender Neutral Bathrooms Kimm and Commission Researcher Elysia Chandler attended a meeting with city officials about training Cambridge businesses to establish more gender neutral bathrooms. Nancy Schlacter,

Human Rights Commission Executive Director, and Sabrina Selk, Human Rights Commissioner, will meet with the License Commission and coordinate a training for Cambridge businesses in the fall.

- Come Out of the Margins Cambridge Town Hall Meeting --April 13—At our next meeting we will identify areas that were discussed at the Town Hall Meeting that are appropriate for us to work on as a Commission. Commissioners have been emailed minutes and a video of this event.

Future Event Participation

- River Festival – June 3 Kendall Square Jessica has made arrangements and we will be tabling from 11am-3pm
- LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers and Immigrants event Planning meeting scheduled for 6pm May 30 (Tuesday) at the Au Bon Pain in Central Square The event committee is Bill, Linda, Aren, Susan, Greg, Abby, Noe, Kimm, and members of the Cambridge Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship.

Possible Action

SB62/HB1190-An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors

- Commonly referred to as the Conversion Therapy Ban Bill, it would prohibit state licensed mental health professionals from subjecting minors to conversion therapy practices to change sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
- Kimm will be giving testimony at the State House on June 6 during the hearing, please feel free to go and support them or hand your State Representative or Senator a letter in person, calling your Representatives and Senator is also recommended.

Cambridge Pride Brunch June 10 9-11am

- Every year the Commission co-sponsors this with the Mayor. We are giving Community Recognition Awards to Melody Brazo, Black Lives Matter Cambridge, and the cast and crew of the CRLS production of 'Angels in America'.
- John and Silas will speak, Aren and Silas will give out the awards, and Noe will MC.
- Mayor Simmons will give the Bayard Rustin Service Award to the founders of *The Rainbow Times*.
- We will have a small table at this event.
- Those who are interested in marching in the Pride Parade in a contingent with Mayor Simmons should email Aren.
- The City is painting the crosswalks in rainbow colors for Pride as they did last year.

Committee Reports

Budget

- \$800 left before ordering new swag which Steven and Maya will coordinate-July 1st there will be new funds available. We will use up our old swag until we get new items.
- Ordering procedure has changed so orders may take more time than usual.

Communications

- The Facebook page, Twitter account, webpage, business cards, nametags, and tablecloth are up to date with our new name and logo.

Public Comment/Announcements

At their Town Meeting in April Arlington, MA established a Rainbow Commission dedicated specifically to fostering a safe & inclusive community for LGBTQ+ folks. We will invite them to attend a Commission meeting and offer to attend one of theirs.

Cambridge Street Upper School is performing the play “Peter and Wendy” at 7pm on May 26.

The StageSource Conference is taking place on June 17 at Northeastern University, people interested in the local theatre are encouraged to attend.

<http://www.stagesource.org/page/2017Conference>

Adjournment, followed by training on the + in LGBTQ+ given by Kimm Topping and Minh Nguyen.

Next Meeting: Thursday June 22nd 6:00-7:30