

## City of Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

### March 2018 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Aren Stone, John Gintell, Mal Malme, Bob Parlin, Susan Bernstein, Maya Escobar, Greg MacDonough, Steven Lee, Linda Daniels, Lesley Phillips, Kate Grams, Jessica Daniels, Devontae Freeland, Rachel Oppenheimer.

Absent: Silas Weiner, Abby Duker, Kimm Topping, Bill Barnert, Noe Kamelamela

On Leave: Anna Weick

Guests: Amelia Joselow (Commission Research Associate), Detective Brian O'Connor (Police Dept. Liaison to the Commission), Police Commissioner Branville Bard, Jr., Detective William Phillips (Assistant to the Police Commissioner), Adam Patten (Community Outreach for Police Dept.)

Minute Taker: Rachel

February minutes approved.

Added to the Agenda: Feedback from today's Pride Brunch meeting with the Mayor's office (see under "Future Events").

### Police Report

1. Det. O'Connor reported there had been one LGBTQ hate crime reported in Feb. 2018, an assault of a juvenile in Harvard Square. It is being investigated by the police and the D.A.'s office.
2. He has been talking with the LGBTQ liaison to the BPD to facilitate recruitment, including recruitment of LGBTQ cadets.
3. Discussed the CPD upcoming "Coffee with the Commissioner", and commissioners made recommendations of local cafes that might be willing host this event. The tentative day/time will be Saturday April 14th from 9-11.
4. An incident at Youth on Fire/Y2Y (Youth homeless drop-in center and overnight shelter in Harvard Square) involving the police department was brought to the Commissioner's attention. The Commissioner agreed to look into this, and the Commission agreed to report this back to Youth on Fire staff. Commissioner Bard said that they only go into the shelter when called and usually send police supervisors and plainclothes officers, agreements that they have with shelter staff. They have regular meetings with the staff of both shelters.

### Update on Out-of-School Time Programs - Amelia Joselow

1. The second draft is complete and sent to Taha Jennings (Assistant to the City Manager) Aren, John, Elysia (previous researcher), and Nancy Schlacter (Human Rights Commission Executive Director) for edits. The next draft will be shared with Commissioners, the City Manager, and the Deputy City Manager for final edits.
2. Amelia filled out the application for the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equity Index for the city.
3. Amelia is working with the Family Policy Council to help bring an LGBTQ lens to their work.
4. Amelia's been meeting with other city commissions and plans to meet with the Disability Commission on Monday.
5. Amelia passed around information about an upcoming Disability Film Festival.

## Race Dialogues

A reminder about the upcoming LGBTQ+ commission's internal diversity dialogues set for Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm each session. The first session will be held at 51 Inman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. The second meeting in our usual Windsor Street location.

Commissioners are strongly encouraged to attend and those on the Diversity Sub-Committee provided feedback about the training plans. These will be facilitated by Commissioner Linda Daniels and Denise Phillips (Director of the Multicultural Student Affairs at Wheelock College).

## Future Events

1. Drag Storytime at the Central Square Library on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1pm. The LGBTQ+ Commission agreed to co-sponsor. Hopefully we'll have some child friendly give-aways at the event.
2. We will co-sponsor a talk by AC Dumlao on Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Main Cambridge Library. Dumlao is a non-binary POC who will speak about the intersection between non-binary gender identities and race as part of Pride Month. Commissioner Maya Escobar agreed to provide information about the event as it becomes available.
3. Our own event – Commission agreed to be thinking about idea for this. Some suggestions included a film and panel, and educational talk about trans identities. Also suggested this event could be a place to let the public know about initiatives such as the SOGI training, the Commission's research reports, and how they impact the community.
4. Upcoming Tabling for May Fair, Youth Pride, River Fest. Commissioners reminded to let Jessica Daniels know if they can table.
5. Pride Brunch –
  - a. Several Commissioners met with Mayor McGovern and his Dep. Chief of Staff, Ana Barros. The Mayor suggested having a gathering after the brunch, possibly outside, to bring more people out to City Hall for Pride, having perhaps a shorter brunch (approx. one hour). It was suggested this outside event could involve music and have activities, possibly have entertainer(s).
  - b. The Commission was reminded to think of Community Recognition and the Bayard Rustin Service Award. Commissioners instructed to send their suggestions to Commissioner Rachel Oppenheimer who will compile this list.
  - c. It was suggested to have an LGBTQ+ Town Hall meeting during June as part of Pride Month and people seemed very interested, possibly getting together intergenerational LGBTQ+ people to share experiences. Because of the number of Pride events during June, it was requested that this Town Hall take place in September. Commissioner Aren Stone agreed to take these suggestions back to the Mayor.
  - d. The Pride Brunch Sub-Committee was formed: Kate Grimes, John Gintell, Aren Stone, Susan Bernstein, Steven Lee.

## CCTV/NeighborMedia

Commissioners John Gintell and Silas Weiner went to a training about making Public Service Announcements. Agreed to discuss this further when Silas is at a meeting.

### Prep for May Meeting w/Melody Brazo

Commissioners asked to send their questions to Commissioner Aren Stone so that she can forward to Melody to prep for May Commission meeting. Melody is the Cambridge School Department Welcoming Schools Coordinator, which “Promotes safe and affirming schools for all kinds of students and families by providing resources and support to enhance understanding between students and adults from diverse backgrounds, cultures and circumstances”. Her job includes support for LGBTQ students and families and homeless youth, and bullying prevention.

### PTR Fundraiser for MTPC

Commissioner Lesley Phillips asked if the Commission would provide organizational sponsorship for the PTR (Professionals for Transgender Rights) Fundraiser. The Commission agreed to this.

### Committee Reports

1. Budget and Swag Status: Swag for upcoming events have been ordered and Commissioner Steven Lee asked the suppliers to have them sent by 04/15. There is approx. \$300 left.
2. Communications: Commissioner John Gintell and Research Associate Amelia Joselow attended a meeting with other city Commissions to discuss website and other IT issues. Several years ago the Commission asked the City Manager if there could be more communication and cohesiveness between city Commissions. Taha Jennings, Assistant to the City Manager, is leading this effort.
3. All Gender Bathrooms Committee: The committee is going to meet with the City Manager and will be asking that: all city buildings have gender-neutral bathrooms, the city reach out more actively to restaurants and businesses, and push to have stronger ordinances requiring all gender bathrooms like in other major cities. Commissioner Susan Bernstein discussed the recent CRLS graphic art competition to create bathroom signs for all gender bathrooms, and it was suggested these might be included in Commissioner Kimm Topping’s upcoming training to restaurants.

### Public Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Maya Escobar informed the meeting there will be a youth-led and youth-centered panel at the Main Cambridge Library in April and to let her know if there are any youth who might like to be involved.

Next Meeting: April 26<sup>th</sup>.