

LGBTQ+ Commission July 26, 2018 Minutes

Present: Mal Malme; Aren Stone; Rachel Oppenheimer; Jessica Daniels; Maya Escobar; Silas Winer; Kate Grams; John Gintell; Steven Lee; Greg MacDonough; Bill Barnert; Kimm Topping

Absent:; Abby Duker; Susan Bernstein; Noe Kamelamela; Lesley Phillips; Bob Parlin; Anna Weick (on leave)

Guests: Amelia Joselow, LGBTQ+ Commission Research Associate

Report from Amelia Joselow

- Update on Out-of-School-Time (OST) Report: Amelia has done outreach to over 100 OST organizations and has had over 20 meetings. She will meet with more programs in the next few weeks. The meetings are specific to the organization and usually include a presentation of the report findings, best practices and recommendations, statistics on bullying for LGBTQ+ youth, etc. She described the meetings as collaborative, with time to discuss what the organizations want to discuss and to answer specific questions.

Story Map: The Story Map of best practices for OST programs is almost ready to launch publicly.

Safety Net Program: Amelia met with this program, which helps young people to avoid arrest, and talked about how many of the youth they serve might identify as LGBTQ+.

Take-Aways: A couple of take-aways as the report comes to an end: If there is another report she'd like to meet with the organizations first, before creating a survey tool. Most of the staff she met with were very enthusiastic about supporting LGBTQ+ youth and were glad to have the chance to discuss and learn more.

The organizations are using the one page summary and the best practices pamphlet that Amelia created.

- Amelia reviewed the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, which found that LGB youth have a higher probability for being the victims of violence, engaging in high risk behaviors, and attempting suicide, than those youth who don't identify as LGB.

Past Events

- Freedom For All Massachusetts Town Meeting was held at the Main Library on July 25th. We tabled at the event.

Future Events

- Cambridge Town Hall Meeting with Mayor McGovern will be held at City Hall on October 11, starting at 6:00

Commission Relationship with Police Department

- Frequency of Liaison Attendance: We decided that we would like the Police Department liaison, Det. Brian O'Connor, to attend our meetings quarterly. He is next able to come in October. In this way the public would know beforehand whether there would be police presence at our meetings or not.
- Meeting Preparation: In addition to any information that Brian brings to share with us, we'll have questions for him that we send him before the meeting. The Police Subcommittee will come up with questions, based on Commission discussion.
- Uniforms, weapons, other questions: In response to our questions Brian relayed that all officers must wear their uniform if they are in a uniformed position and must carry their service weapons while on duty. Police personnel, such as Brian, who aren't in a uniformed position wear business casual dress.
- Other Decisions: The Commission still has a couple of issues to discuss about our relationship with the Police Department, including whether we want Police Commissioner Bard to attend any future meetings, whether Commission members want to attend stakeholder meetings at the Police Department, and how to inform the wider community of our decisions. Commission members expressed appreciation that Commissioner Bard wants to learn more about the LGBTQ+ community.
- The Police Subcommittee will meet before the next full Commission meeting.

Strategic Planning

- We listed some items for the Strategic Planning Committee to discuss. These include: policy on members taking a leave of absence, connecting to other communities of LGBTQ+ folks, creating a succession plan for Chairs, future events, collaboration with other groups, new events to table at, involvement of more people and groups, including other city commissions and departments. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet to discuss and bring forward proposals.

No Public Comment / Announcements

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 27th