

LGBTQ+ Commission

May 2019 Minutes

Present at Meeting: Kimm Topping , Aren Stone, John Gintell, Meesh Zucker, Nefyn Meissner, Jessica Daniels, Britt Huhmann, Maya Escobar, Greg MacDonough, Noelani, Kamelamela, Bill Barnert, Silas Winer, Bob Parlin, Susan Bernstein, Mal Malme, Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee.

Absent: Leo Austin-Spooner, Lesley Phillips, Kate Grams

1. Introductions, April minutes approved. Added to the agenda are updates from the Communications Committee, budget, and swag.
2. Events – Reviewed past and upcoming events:
 - a. Youth Pride (05/18/19) – Commissioners who attended Youth pride reviewed the event.
 - b. Public Accommodations Training (06/13/19) – Kimm will be giving this training along with the lawyer from the Human Rights Commission. Kimm to send an email to the Commissioners containing the flyer for this event.
 - c. Hoops ‘N’ Health (06/15/19, rain date 06/22/19) – The Health & Education portion will take place 12pm-4pm. Jessica will send an email to the Commissioners to seek volunteers for tabling and complete the application for the table.
3. Pride Brunch (06/08/19) – All awardees accepted. The event will be from 9am to 11am. Commissioners volunteered for positions during the event (taking pictures, tabling, welcoming the public). Unclear if the event will be televised by CCTV, will look into this. It was confirmed the bus taking people to the pride parade will be accessible.
4. Rainbow Room (Fall event) – Reviewed the previous Rainbow Room event. Discussed potential themes and ideas for this year’s event, and explored potential partners. A planning sub-committee was created (Meesh, Aren, Mal, Susan, Bill, and Maya).
5. Update On All Committees:
 - a. *All Gender Bathrooms* – Reviewed the history and background of this policy (issued in 2012) and reviewed Amelia’s role as part of this sub-committee. The sub-committee members were identified (Mal, Noe, Kimm, Jessica, John, Rachel) and it was suggested to ask Amelia to chair this sub-committee. Mal agreed to send an email to the sub-committee to arrange for the next meeting.
 - b. *Diversity* – This sub-committee has not met in some time. Reviewed the past events and accomplishments (re-evaluate how we hold our events, and our 2-part diversity training). It was suggested the Commission regularly review and recommit to the agreements we made on at least a yearly basis and put these changes into practice regularly. It was agreed to make these agreements and lessons a part of the Commission handbook. It was suggested we continue to collaborate with the Strategic Planning sub-committee to make sure the Commission is recruiting a diverse membership. Aren and Bob agreed to co-chair this committee (Kimm, Aren, Mal, Susan, Bob, Silas, Noe, Maya, Rachel).

- c. *Handbook* – No new additional information. The Strategic Planning sub-committee was reminded of their responsibility to decide how to select co-chairs. Discussed what is currently in the Google drive as part of the handbook and that those sections that need frequent changes or updates can go into a separate folder.
- d. *Police Relations* – Discussed the Commission statement that was just released. Kimm agreed to contact Commissioner Bard to schedule his next appearance at our meeting. The Commission was reminded to send Kimm any questions they would like to pass along to Commissioner Bard, and can also discuss questions at our next Commission meeting. Suggested that we follow-up with questions about GOAL training and adding a rainbow symbol to the cadet training flyer.
- e. *Strategic Planning* – Steven agreed to review the sub-committee’s ‘to-do’ list and it was suggested they schedule an upcoming meeting for this summer. They also agreed to work on the co-chair selection process as discussed earlier. Meesh joined this sub-committee.
- f. *Youth* – Reaching out to school principals and, subsequently, their GSA’s, is still in progress with the goal to hear how youth would guide the Commission in their work. Nefyn joined this sub-committee.
- g. *Communications* – Reviewed role and responsibilities of this sub-committee. Jessica recently ordered more swag for our upcoming events.
- h. *Budget* – Discussed Amelia’s role with this. Commission discussed estimates of what has been spent and what is left before end of fiscal year. Based on these estimates it was decided to put any further purchasing on hold until the new fiscal year.

6. Additional Discussion

- a. It was suggested that a column on our sub-committee’s list be added to include the names of the Commission members who are on these teams.
- b. Leo suggested possible use of Slack as part of the Commission’s communication options. The overall reaction was not in favor though use of Slack might be helpful for sub-committee’s task. It was decided to continue this discussion at the next Commission meeting in which Leo is present.
- c. John reviewed the projects Amelia has been a part of including working with the City Manager on all-gender bathrooms in Cambridge, surveying staff in senior housing, and researching the potential of having an LGBTQ community center.

7. Announcements

- a. Briefly discussed The Healthy Youth Act and passed around info. Kimm agreed to send email to the Commission with the details of an upcoming hearing about this.
- b. John informed the Commission of the state bill to allow a gender marker of “X” on driver’s licenses and birth certificates.

Next Meeting: June 27 6:00-7:30