

GLBT Commission Minutes December 11, 2014

Commissioners Present: Aren Stone, Bob Parlin, Caitlin Drechsler, John Gintell, Kara Smith, Kristina Mastropasqua, Lesley Phillips, Mike McKenna, Neil Scannell, Paul Miller, Steven Lee

Commissioners Absent: Anna Weick, Bill Barnert, , Gregory Grays-Thomas, Kevin Shpritzer, Maggie Giles, Mal Malme, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Rachel Oppenheimer

Guests: Superintendent Chris Burke, Cambridge Police Department
Sarah Boyer, Cambridge Historical Commission
Russ Wolfe, Police partnership study, Northeastern University
Maya Escobar, Librarian, Cambridge Public Library
Jessica Daniels, Cambridge resident

Call to Order.

Approved November meeting minutes.

Added to and accepted December meeting agenda.

Introductions

Applications for new Commissioner openings:

--We have received three applications. Two applicants attended the meeting.

--Steven will make a Doodle poll to schedule interviews in January.

Current Commissioners not returning: Greg Grays-Thomas was unable to attend tonight's meeting but thanked the Commission for its work. He'll be busy attending graduate school. Caitlin Dreschler will also not be continuing as she'll be having a baby and will no longer have time. Neil Scannell and family are moving to Rockport and he is also not returning. Many thanks were spoken by and to the departing Commissioners.

Cambridge LGBTQA school staff gathering:

--Ed Byrne, the Commission's liaison to the Mayor, asked for the names of the Commissioners working on this.

--Kara, Bob, and John will work with Ed.

Meeting with City Manager and Deputy City Manager: Aren and John met with Rich Rossi and Lisa Peterson.

--They continue to be extremely supportive of our work.

--There are enough available funds for the Commission's intern to continue on the Senior's Project and Youth Project until completion.

--At the Commission's request, the City Manager will call a meeting of representatives of several Cambridge Commissions that have the purpose of working on issues of equity to talk about collaboration possibilities.

--Chris Burke continues to work to develop the city employee LGBTQ cultural competency training. The city is now looking for trainers. If anyone knows of any please let Aren, John, or Chris know.

Sarah Boyer, Oral Historian, Cambridge Historical Commission:

--Sarah has written many books for the city focusing on interviews with residents of different neighborhoods.

--She would like to do an oral history of the LGBTQ community in Cambridge.

--She interviewed attendees at the Marriage Equality 10 year celebration. She would like to see Neil MacInnes Barker's video of the event and any other video recorded.

--Perhaps she can attend the Commission and Mayor's Pride Brunch next June, as it will be the 25th anniversary of the event. There will be many people there who she might be able to interview.

--Sarah will come to January's meeting and would like to brainstorm with us on moving this project forward.

Chris Burke, Police Report:

--Public Safety LGBTQ cultural competency training: Pro Ambulance has not been through the training. They have been asking Chris when the training will be, showing their interest in moving forward.

--Chris spoke passionately about the Cambridge Police Dept.'s commitment to fair and equitable community policing. He spoke of how difficult the last few weeks have been in regards to the deaths in Ferguson and Staten Island and the protests, both because of the actions of some police officers and because Cambridge's police force is different but many people don't know that. He described the police communication with the protesters who have marched and "died in" in the city. It was noted by him and by Commissioners that the protesters were treated with respect. Many Commissioners expressed support of our Police Department.

--Chris will provide statistics on diversity within the department

Writing a piece about the Cambridge Police Department?

--A Commissioner suggested that we write a piece expressing our support for the Cambridge Police Department. Discussion points included:

- Lots of debate, such as leaving race out – but others want to demonstrate our place as an ally so would be hard to leave race out
- Concern from some that we be sensitive to not taking over the existing agenda about race relations with police across the country
- Be conscious of timing – is it too soon to write about the Cambridge police without having it be about Ferguson and Staten Island?
- We would need to be very clear about our purpose and the scope of the statement
- Racial justice is something that the LGBTQ community sometimes struggles with
- Is this too far outside of our purview as an official part of city government?
- Someone noted that they didn't know about police efforts in the community and would rather hear it from the P.D. directly rather than us
- Maybe do a community event instead of a written piece.
- We made a decision to not decide on anything yet but to keep talking
- Possibly write something broader and maybe coordinate with another commission to diversify perspectives

- Find out from Brian Corr if the Human Rights Commission is planning an event about the police, race, and community (Aren will talk with Brian)

Somerville LGBT Liaison:

--Somerville's newly appointed liaison, Andra Oshinsky, contacted Aren and John.
--We should think about collaborating on events.

Meeting Time:

--A proposal has been made that we change our meeting time.
--We will discuss this at our January meeting.

Our next meeting will be January 22, 2015

Submitted by Aren Stone and Kristina Mastropasqua