

# Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: 10/27/2022

Tonight's Chair: Bill Barnert

Attendance (X = Here, LOA = Leave of Absence, *Blank* = Absent):

COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	STAFF	Pre-sent?
Badriyyah Alsabah	X	Lesley Phillips	X	Jennifer Mathews	X
Bill Barnert	X	Linden Huhmann	X	Amelia Joselow	X
Bob Bordone		Noelani Gabriel Holt			
Cameron Van Fossen		Noelani Kamelamela		<b>GUESTS</b>	
Frank Arce	X	Soltan Bryce	LOA		
Gregory MacDonough	X	Olivia Sevey	X		
Kat Long		Warner Santiago			
Kate Grams	X				
Lauryn McNair	X				

## AGENDA:

1. **Welcome**
2. **Assign Minute Taker**

Gregory MacDonough volunteered to take minutes.

3. **Approve / Modify Agenda**

There are no additions to the meeting's agenda.

4. **Approve Previous Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting are approved unanimously.

5. **Introductions**

Soltan is on a Leave of Absence.

## 6. Project Updates

- **Town Hall/Focus Groups**

- Amelia updated the commission on the in-person Town Hall. The Town Hall was small but facilitated a positive discussion about youth and mental health. Amelia is compiling the data from the Town Hall and will present the top ideas to the commission. The next session is on November 17th over zoom. Amelia is working on outreach and planning around the tech needs for an online session.

- **LGBTQ+-Friendly Housing Task Force**

- Members from the commission met with Cambridge's new City Manager, Yi-An Huang, about the Friendly Housing Task Force. Mr. Huang is in support of the task force's project. An outreach/application email will be sent out in the next two to three weeks with information about the task force. The task force is looking for one member from the LGBTQ+ commission. For any interested parties, contact Jennifer for more information.

- **LGBTQ+ Programming Leader**

- We are currently checking references for a candidate and are likely to make an offer next week. Onboard for the new programming leader will take place before Thanksgiving.

- **Community Connection Requests**

- Saskia VannJames - LGBTQ+ Racial & Health Equity
  - Amelia & Jennifer met with Saskia last week. Saskia is the Director of Racial Justice & Health Equity Policy at the [Massachusetts Recreational Consumer Council](#) and an active community organizer in Cambridge. Her focus is working with CHA (Cambridge Health Alliance) to build a racial justice and health equity framework similar to the [Boston Public Health Department's](#). Saskia would like to develop more partnerships with the LGBTQ+ Commission, focusing on intersectionality with LGBTQ+ communities of color and youth.
  - She has asked for Commission help amplifying:
    - Upcoming Harvard Symposium, Can Reparations Close the Racial Health Gap - <https://fxb.harvard.edu/event/reparationssymposium/>
    - The work of the Racial Justice & Equity Commission, which is particularly looking for any Black, Brown, Indigenous queer/transgender folks that support reparations from transatlantic slave trade - [Interested people can fill out this link to learn more](#)

- Jennifer added Saskia to the Commission's email list, and we are putting together a list of other contacts/groups she can connect with in the City.
    - Emily Young - Cambridge Teen Health Clinic
      - Emily is a new staff person at the Cambridge Teen Health Clinic, who connected with Amelia to share what the clinic does. The clinic can be a resource for LGBTQ+ youth. Jennifer added the Cambridge Teen Health Clinic to the LGBTQ+ resource list.
    - Connecting with the MA LGBT Chamber of Commerce (MALGBTCC)
      - The Cambridge City Manager and Mayor submitted a support letter for the MALGBTCC this week for a grant application. MALGBTCC represents twenty Cambridge businesses and is interested in discussing more ways to partner moving forward. Jennifer is scheduling a meeting with the MALGBTCC and the City's Director of Economic Development for an Opportunity to learn more.
- **Updated Resource List**
  - The resource list is published on the City's webpage, with the final version available here:
    - [https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/glbtccommission/2022/update\\_dlgbtgresourcelistoct2022.pdf](https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/glbtccommission/2022/update_dlgbtgresourcelistoct2022.pdf)
- **National Coming Out Day** - The National Coming Out Day event was earlier this month with the idea to put together a Public Coming Out Call. There were not enough submissions for this project to manifest. The Commission will use the project for next year's National Coming Out Day and begin planning and promotion next June.
- **City-wide Board & Commission Updates**
  - The city is changing the B&C recruitment, appointment, and reappointment process. B&C staff are receiving more training in the following weeks. The LGBTQ+ Commission is on the shortlist for recruitment. Revisions to recruitment include postings opened for 30 days, and the city will review potential appointments. Jennifer will let us know when recruitment will begin again.

## 7. Working Group Reports

- Events
  - **Transgender Day of Remembrance:** Rainbows Across Communities have put together a set of slides to be displayed on TDoR. The slide will be converted into signs and put on display at city hall. Bill will talk to Gladys about adding a QR code to the signs. Commissioners can find a copy of the slides in our Events WG folder.
  - **Transgender Awareness Month Panel** - On Wednesday, Nov. 16th, the LGBTQ+ Commission is co-sponsoring a Transgender Awareness Month Panel with the Cambridge Healthy Children Task Force at the Cambridge Public Library on trans youth. Bill Barnert will be the moderator.

The Cambridge Healthy Children's Task Force, with co-sponsors the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission, Cambridge Public Library, and Project 10 East (P10), are proud to present a panel discussion on the lived experience of transgender and non-binary youth featuring members of SpeakOUT Boston and local community members. Join us to connect with other transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming youth; their caregivers and allies; and those who want to be better allies to the LGBTQIA+ community.

A link for the event is available here:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/cpl/calendarofevents/view.aspx?guid=%7bC3A23412-3310-4F93-8923-A32E9BB44F0C%7d&start=20221116T180000&end=20221116T203000>

- Handbook: There will soon be a request for review and feedback from Commissioners of recent Handbook edits and recommendations.
- Housing: Last month, the housing subcommittee met with someone from the Inspectional Services Department (ISD). ISD said that in Cambridge's zoning policy, the rule about three unrelated people living together is not actively enforced by the city. The city generally uses the State's lodging rule. Removing the city's policy would not negatively impact ISD. Housing will follow up with more information about how the current policy impacts Cambridge residents. Linden and Amelia will connect on drafting a survey regarding Cambridge's zoning policy.
- Public Health & Safety: No updates
- Pride Brunch: No updates
- Recruitment: Working group meeting soon to start formulating strategy for next recruitment cycle. Request Commissioner volunteers to work with Frank and Noe.
- Strategic Planning
- Youth: Zoom Meeting Wed. Nov. 2nd at 6pm to start the ball rolling on interviewing all the GSA's (a project that was started & then cut short by COVID).

#### **8. Old Business**

- Jennifer & Co-Chairs met with the City Manager on 10/17. Discussion about bringing other commissions together to develop new ideas and initiatives.

#### **9. New Business**

- The Human Rights Commission gets grants for community outreach from HUD. They plan to do outreach to the LGBTQ+ community. Gender identity is now protected, so HUD wants to encourage outreach. They want to partner with us to do a Know-Your-Rights-and-Where-To-Go outreach. Amelia volunteered to meet with them.

#### **10. Report from Rainbows Across Communities**

- RAC is hoping to sponsor a Boston Gay Men's Chorus concert, if we can find a venue that works.

- There will be a SAGE Table in Arlington on Nov. 10th, 6pm. Info at: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/30695/2690>
- Arlington hosted a picnic for the LGBTQ+ community. Bill suggested that perhaps we should do something similar (or indoors now that it's no longer picnic weather.)
- Next RAC meeting: Wed. Nov. 9 5 PM

**11. Public Comments / Announcements**

- The Harvard Film Archive presents MUFF DIVES: THE DYKE BAR IN CINEMA October 30 – November 4. Link for the event included here: <https://harvardfilmarchive.org/programs/muff-dives-the-dyke-bar-in-cinema>

**12. Next Commission Meeting:** Thursday, December 8, 2022 - On Zoom