

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: 2023-09-28

Tonight's Chair: Frank Arce

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

COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	STAFF	Pre-sent?
Badriyyah Alsabah		Linden Huhmann	x	Carolina Almonte	x
Bill Barnert	x	M. Joyce-Anderson	x	Amelia Joselow	x
Bob Bordone	x	Mary Gardner		Phoebe Hallahan	x
Cindy Telingator	x	Noelani Kamelamela	x	Sarah Binney	x
Frank Arce	x	Olivia Sevey		GUESTS	
Gregory MacDonough		Warner Santiago		Katherine Chen	
Jason Doo		Zack Dresser	x	Jack Reid	
Kat Long	x				
Lauryn McNair	x				

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Frank Arce

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Frank Arce

1. **Welcome**

a. **Congratulations to Carolina Almonte**

- i. Appointed Acting Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, the LGBTQ+ Commission, and the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship

2. **Assign Minute Taker** (Bill Barnert)
3. **Approve / Modify Agenda** (Approved)
4. **Approve Previous Minutes** (Approved)
5. **Introductions**
 - a. Name
 - b. Pronouns
 - c. Check in question options: What is something good in your life? What is something you are looking forward to? Why did you join the LGBTQ+ Commission? What is a fact about you that you like to share?
6. **Project Updates** (current actions, and plans) including reports from Carolina, Amelia, Sarah, & Phoebe
 - a. **Amendments to Protect Family Inclusion and Relationship Diversity** – Carolina discussed that the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (CHRC) (and the Law Department) submitted a response to a City Council policy order requesting the addition of new protected classes to the Human Rights Commission Ordinance and the Fair Housing Ordinance (“relationship status” and “family structure”). Our recommendations were approved and forwarded to the full City Council for discussion. Carolina anticipates a hearing on October. A motion to approve them (with minor date changes) was passed.
 - b. **LGBTQ+-friendly Housing Task Force** – Carolina gave a recap of kick off meeting and goals of the Task Force on 9/19/23. The goal of the kick off meeting was to build rapport with the other members, discuss the scope of the project, review the working groups, and layout the expectations and timelines of the project. The next meeting will be in mid-October, where Amelia will present information and data regarding the problem that the Task Force is tasked with solving.
 - i. Amelia will give a presentation on **LGBTQ+ Housing Discrimination** to the LGBTQ+-friendly Housing Task Force.
 - c. **Health Care Survey project** is underway.
 - d. **Danehy Park Day** was canceled due to weather.
 - e. **New brochures** have been printed!
 - f. **LGBTQ+ Resources List** on the web being updated (A) to bring it up to date, and (B) to change it from a PDF to interactive site.
 - g. On Oct. 7th: Another **Queer Arts in the Parks** at Longfellow House. Volunteers are needed.
 - h. Film **MILK** shown at the Senior Center this week. Now a monthly series. Additional films (last Tuesday of the month, at 10am at the Senior Center in Central Square):
 - i. **MOONLIGHT** – Oct. 23rd, 10am
 - ii. **BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER** – Nov. 28th, 10am
 - iii. **GEN SILENT** – Jan. 30th, 10am
7. **Working Group Reports**
 - Communications
 - Events
 - Handbook – Need to meet to update to reflect reality of staff
 - Housing - Update and discussion on Housing Working Group letter to the city council in support of legalizing households of more than 3 unrelated people. The letter was

unanimously approved to be sent to city councilors. The working group is planning to wait a few months or so to send this out after the city council election.

- Pride Brunch
- Public Health & Safety - Zack met with Police Commissioner Elow & Crystal Rosa (Language Access Manager) to discuss our proposal to have her come to meetings when needed, but not regularly scheduled.
- Recruitment
- Youth - Youth Working Group is about to start interviewing all the local GSA's to continue work that was started prior to the pandemic shut down. The group currently comprises five people (Noe Kamelamela, Amelia Joselow, Frank Arce, Bill Barnert, Cindy Telingator).

8. **Old Business**

9. **New Business**

- a. **Hybrid in-person + Zoom meetings:** Proposal to start doing this in October, or as soon as feasible. **PASSED.**
- b. **Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR)** - Mon, Nov 20, 2023. Belmont is doing something. Events working group will meet to discuss possibility of doing our own project or the possibility of publicizing and joining a neighboring town's event.
- c. **National Coming Out Day Panel Sponsored by Belmont LGBTQ+ Alliance:** Join us in celebration and support of our LGBTQ+ community in Belmont. On National Coming Out Day, we will hear from four Belmont panelists about their coming out experience.
- d. **Cambridge LGBTQ+ Community Picnic** - Who wants to help plan? - Bill will call meeting or email discussion.

10. **Report from Rainbows Across Communities**

11. **Public Comments / Announcements**

- a. Bill shared with us an event that's open to the public: ***We're Here: Tech's Queer***. The speaker (Joan Ilaqua) of [The History Project](#) is excellent and so knowledgeable about queer history in Boston.
- b. Out in Tech - eventbrite.com/e/out-in-tech-boston-were-here-techs-queer-tickets-721485872667
- c. M shared with us an upcoming **Trans+ Community Celebration 2023** at Harvard, Oct. 6th & 7th. - TransHarvard.com

12. **Next Commission Meeting:** Thursday, October 26, 6-7:30 (Zoom or Location TBA)