

## **LGBTQ+ Meeting Minutes – September Meeting**

**Present:** Chairs Bill Barnert and Zachary Dresser, Commissioners Kat Long, Linden Huhmann, Bob Bordone, Caitlin Egleson, Finley Foster, Evan Mackay, Mary Gardner, Frank Arce, Cindy Telingator, Vincent Monrreal, Emmy Howe, Frank Arce, Sukia Akiba, Gregory Macdonough  
**Staff:** Executive Director Carolina Almonte, Director of Operations Sarah Binney, LGBTQ+ Research Associate Amelia Joselow, LGBTQ+ Program Leader Phoebe Hallahan

**Absent:** Commissioners Noelani Kamelamela

1. **Call to order**
  - Chair Barnert called this meeting to order at 6:15pm.
2. **Review and approval of agenda**
  - No Commissioners had any additions to the agenda.
3. **Review and approval of May 2024 minutes**
  - Commissioner Foster moved to approve June minutes with edits from Commissioner Huhmann about the communications working group. Commissioner Bordone seconded.
4. **Staff Reports**
  - ED Almonte thanked Commissioners Akiba and Monrreal for volunteering to table during Danehy Park Day, which was a rainy and cold Saturday. ED Almonte also shared that there was great success and turnout for the Banned Book Readout with the Central Square Library. The event was in the newly renovated Lewis Room. ED Almonte is writing working group guidance, with input from the Law Department and also working on the Rules of Procedure for the Commission, with RA Joselow. ED Almonte will follow up with Mayor Simmons about speaking at an upcoming Commission meeting.
  - PL Hallahan shared that the next Intergenerational SAGE dinner will be at the Main Library Community Room at 6:00pm on October 9. Pizza and salad will be served. Commissioners Mackay and Monrreal volunteered to facilitate table discussions.
  - RA Joselow is working with the Public Health Department on an LGBTQ+ Focus Group on October 17 at 6:00pm on Zoom. RA Joselow is hoping that some Commissioners can join.
  - DOO Binney shared that the Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative, the Commission on the Status of Women, the De Novo Center for Justice and Healing, and the Human Rights Commission will be putting on a workshop called, "An Advocate's Guide to Fair Housing Protections for Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors." The goal of this event is to empower advocates working with DV survivors. The event is on October 23 from 10:00 am – 11:45 am at the Main Library Lecture Hall. Commissioners are encouraged to send the event to advocates and service providers in their networks.
5. **Working Group Reports**
  - Communications - Chair Barnert, Commissioner Huhmann, and a member of the public are interested in creating a zine explaining Cambridge's Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

- Commissioner Monrreal is interested in renewing the Public Health and Safety Commission. Co chair Zachary Dresser discussed previous work with Police Commissioner Elow and possibility to re engage with police through the Public Health & Safety working group.
- Commissioners are interested in beginning planning meetings for Pride Brunch.
- Working Group processes – Commissioner Egleson proposed breaking out into working groups in a future Commission meeting. Commissioner Foster asked for the process of making sure there are leaders for each Working Group. Commission staff and chairs will make a plan for Commissioners to sign up to join and lead Working Groups. ED Almonte shared about the process for making and posting Working Group agendas and minutes in compliance with Open Meeting Law.
- Rainbows Across Communities- Chair Barnert shared that this group will move from monthly to quarterly meetings.

6. **Old Business**

- Updated Definition of Sexual Orientation in the Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance and Fair Housing Ordinance. The Commission will need to officially vote to approve the recommendation during the next Commission meeting.
- RA Joselow shared that a recent city form had not been updated with the gender identity options proposed by the Commission. Reviewing city forms could become a working group process.
- Commissioner Monrreal raised a question about how Commissioners can engage in advocacy as a Commissioner compared to as a resident. ED Almonte explained that the Commission speaks as a body so Commissioners can only advocate on behalf of the Commission after the Commission has voted to engage in an action, but Commissioners are free to advocate personally as residents of the City.

7. **Adjournment** – Chair Dresser moved to conclude the meeting at 6:28pm. Commissioner Howe seconded.