

**March 26, 2015 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the March 26 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the February 26 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: Anna Weick, Jessica Daniels, Mal Malme, Maya Escobar, Paul Miller, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Kristina Mastropasqua, Bob Parlin, Rachel Oppenheimer, Kara Smith, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Maggie Giles

Commissioners Absent: (excused) –LaTayna Purnell, Bill Barnert, Mike McKenna, John Gintell, Steven Lee, (unexcused) Lesley Phillips

Guests: Sarah Boyer (oral historian and Community Liaison to the LGBT Senior Housing group), Maya Cameron-Gilsey (in-home therapist and Social Work student), Elysia Chandler (Commission Intern)

I. Welcome

- a. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

II. Future Events

- a. LGBT Teachers Event – Tuesday, March 31 – 3:30-5:30 - Daedalus
 - i. Paul filled the commission in on the details of the event.
 - ii. We currently have 10 RSVPs. RSVPs are not required, so at least a few walk-ups are expected.
 - iii. Estimated attendance is 25 people.
 - iv. Ed Byrne and Commissioners have extended invitations to public and private schools in Cambridge.
 - v. There will be a short program around 4:00.
 1. Bob will do a quick welcome and the Mayor will also speak.
 - vi. Paul will email Bill about getting Commission give-away items to the event, so we can have a table.
 - vii. The Commission approved the use of our budget to pay for the appetizers and gratuity from this event. Paul estimated \$350-\$400 may be necessary.
 - viii. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
- b. *Untangling the Knot* reading
 - i. Mal and Maya are organizing.
 - ii. Mal would like the date of the event to be June 4.
- c. GLSEN Conference – March 28 – 8:15am – 3:00,
 - i. The GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) conference will be held at the John D. O’Byrant School in Roxbury.
 - ii. We won’t have a table or presence at this event, but it could be worth considering in future years.
- d. Pride Brunch – June 13

- i. Maggie, Maya, John and Aren will be the Commission’s organizing committee for this event.
 - ii. Kristina will put together the invitation/save the dates.
 - iii. Rachel will collect nominations for the various awards.
 - iv. There was a discussion about the Bayard Rustin Service Award and the Recognition awards.
 - v. We would like to get previous Rustin award winners involved in nominating and/or selecting future recipients. Aren will contact previous recipients.
 - vi. The parade starts at noon, so the brunch can start at 9:30am.
 - vii. Maggie will email Ed Byrne to start coordinating with the City.
- e. Mayfair – May 3 and River Festival – June 6
 - i. There appeared to be enough Commissioners available to warrant our attendance at these events.
 - ii. Kevin will send in applications for both and create a schedule.
- f. Youth Pride – May 16
 - i. Bob will take care of applying to this event for the Commission. A table costs \$100.

III. **Seniors Health Care Project**

- a. Elysia Chandler, Commission Intern, has been working on this project for approximately 10 hours a week.
- b. She has been surveying local healthcare facilities about their policies and practices in support of LGBTQ seniors.
- c. She has received a positive response from most facilities.
- d. Elysia presented the progress of her report to the Commission (it is not yet completed).
- e. She has categorized responses by Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Hospitals, and Health Care Facilities.
- f. One key finding is that most facilities do not have expert training available for staff working with LGBTQ seniors.
- g. Elysia asked the Commission for suggestions on how to make her final report most useful for us and for the participating organizations.
 - i. Maggie suggested introducing each section of the findings with a description of the “best practice” followed by the reality revealed in the survey responses. This idea was supported by the Commission.
- h. After this report has been finalized, Elysia will survey housing organizations serving seniors in Cambridge in regards to their policies and practices regarding LGBTQ seniors.
- i. John, Aren, Taha Jennings (City Manager’s office), and Nancy Schlacter (Human Rights Commission) have been meeting with Elysia regularly.

IV. **Andra Oshinski, Somerville LGBTQ Liaison**

Andra and Commission members will meet to discuss partnering on projects in the future.

V. **Sarah Boyer – LGBT Senior Housing**

- a. Sarah is a Community Liaison for the LGBT Senior Housing group.
- b. Lisa Krinsky and Bob Linscott of the LGBT Aging Project have been working with Josh Zakim, Boston City Councilor, to bring the issue of affordable LGBT-friendly senior housing to light.

- c. He is setting up a Human Rights Committee hearing, likely in April, where Boston LGBT senior residents can testify about past and present discrimination in senior housing and the need for affordable senior housing for LGBT seniors in the Greater Boston area.
- d. If any commissioners know of people who could testify, they should contact Sarah at saraboya8@gmail.com or at 617-354-4112.

VI. Budget

- a. A motion was passed to allow Kara and Steven to purchase give-away items.
- b. Kara got ideas from the Commission for what items to purchase.
- c. One new idea was to invest in shirts that Commissioners can wear at events.
- d. Any additional suggestions should be sent directly to Kara and Steven.

VII. Announcements

- a. The Boston LGBT Film Festival is coming next weekend.
 - i. The annual showing at the Brattle Theater is on April 3.
 - ii. We are not official sponsors as we have been in prior years.
- b. LGBT veterans marched with identifying banners in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade this year for the first time.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm