

**February 25, 2016 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the February 25 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the January 28 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: Susan Bernstein, Brian Eiermann, Sylvia Guerra, Linda Daniels, Ted Waechter, Jessica Daniels, Mal Malme, Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Steven Lee, Bob Parlin, John Gintell, Anna Weick, Bill Barnert, Rachel Oppenheimer, Maya Escobar, Kristina Mastropasqua

Commissioners Absent: (excused) Mason Weintraub, Kimm Topping – (unexcused) Lesley Phillips

Guests: Police Superintendent Chris Burke (Police Dept. Liaison to the Commission)

- I. **Welcome**
 - a. New commissioners were welcomed to the Commission and everyone introduced themselves.
- II. **Open Meeting Law**
 - a. John reviewed the Open Meeting Law, to which the Commission must adhere.
- III. **Police Report**
 - a. Chris reviewed the Police Department's history of work with the Commission in order to bring new commissioners up to speed.
 - b. Chris, Taha Jennings, Aide to the City Manager, and Jackie Phillips, City Training Coordinator, will be having a meeting in the coming week or two to finalize the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a vendor to supply LGBTQ cultural competency training for municipal employees. The RFP will be sent to John and Aren for review, then put out for vendors.
- IV. **Future Events**
 - a. Spring/Summer 2016: partnering with library on LGBT authors
 - i. The library is still considering this event. The Commission will help them if they put on the event.
 - b. Spring 2016 or fall event: our own event
 - i. Transgender/gender nonconforming people is the topic.
 - ii. Mal met with Mason Dunn, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, to discuss a possible event.
 - iii. The initial idea is to have transgender artists exhibit, perform, and discuss what it's like to be a transgender artist.
 - iv. May is a good time for this event or possibly in the fall.
 - v. Since May is pretty much around the corner, the fall would be a better goal.

- vi. Anna and Mal will be the leads. Ted, Susan, Bill, Brian, Rachel, Aren, Linda, and Bob all volunteered to join the planning committee.

V. LGBT Senior Housing – Policy and Practices project

- a. Elysia Chandler, Commission Intern who is running the project, was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- b. The Cambridge Housing Authority's (CHA) Director of Public Housing Operations, James Comer, worked with Elysia to distribute the housing survey to all CHA employees this week.
- c. Elysia and John will be going to the LGBT Elders in an Ever-Changing World 5th Annual Conference at Salem State University on March 18.
- d. They will be presenting the Commission's Senior Healthcare Report.
- e. Aren, John, and Elysia will meet with Susan Pacheco, Director of the Council on Aging, to present the Senior Healthcare Report and talk about actions the Council might take to support LGBTQ seniors.

VI. Gender Neutral Bathrooms Report

- a. John reviewed the history of the gender neutral bathroom project.
- b. We'd like to create an informational flyer to give to commercial establishments and the general public to educate them about the importance of general neutral bathrooms.
- c. Kevin, Mal, John, Ted, Sylvia and Kristina are the committee.
- d. Prior to the next meeting, this committee should come up with a draft postcard/flyer.

VII. Strategic Planning Committee

- a. Steven reported on the work of this committee.
- b. It was formed to assess ways that we can be more strategic in our thinking and planning over the next few years.
- c. Steven, Jessica, Lesley and John met in November as well as earlier in February.
- d. One topic they discussed was gender neutral bathrooms.
 - i. They had the idea of requesting money from the City to purchase signage for interested commercial establishments.
 - ii. Another thought was to consider trying to get the state plumbing code changed to more easily allow the addition of gender neutral bathrooms.
- e. They also discussed the possibility of changing Pride Brunch to something different such as Pride Dinner.

VIII. Diversity Committee

- a. This committee will look at the Commission's events and planning processes so we can be as inclusive as possible.
- b. Linda, Brian, Maya, Anna, Rachel, and Aren would like to be on this Committee.

IX. Name Change Committee

- a. GLBT is an antiquated acronym.
- b. We need to form a committee to take on the task of renaming the Commission.
- c. Steven and Anna are heading the committee.
- d. Interested commissioners should contact Steven, and he will coordinate meetings and get things going.

- e. At our January meeting, we agreed to have a decision on a new name by our April meeting.

X. Communications Committee

- a. This committee manages our social media presence, Google group and documents, and our website, which is housed within the city's website.
- b. This year, we expect to be given more editing privileges by the city for our website.
- c. Bill will send out an invitation for others to join this committee.

XI. Budget

- a. We have \$2,200 out of our \$2,500 budget remaining.
- b. We have until June to make use of these funds.
- c. Bill suggested putting some of the budget toward a similar event for LGBT-friendly educators to the one we held last year.
- d. Bob suggested purchasing a button-maker to have at our events.
- e. Steven would like people to think about other uses for our funds and bring ideas to our March meeting.

XII. Upcoming Meetings with City Manager and Mayor

- a. Aren and John have meetings scheduled in March with Richard Rossi, City Manager, Lisa Peterson, Deputy City Manager, and Mayor Denise Simmons.
- b. Steven suggested that Aren and John discuss, with the Mayor, the Bayard Rustin Service Award as well as possible changes to Pride Brunch as discussed by the Strategic Planning Committee.
- c. Other Commissioners who would like to attend the meeting with the Mayor should contact Aren or John.

XIII. Annual report for 2015

- a. John will be sending a draft of the Commission's 2015 annual report to Commissioners to review and give feedback.

XIV. Announcements

- a. Neil MacInnes-Barker, former Commissioner and current Director of Veterans' Services, is creating a drop in center for veterans in his office at 51 Inman Street. We will receive invitations to the ribbon-cutting for the drop in center.
- b. The Somerville Council on Aging's LGBTQ Advisory Board Invite you to an "Evening with Senator Patricia Jehlen", as they discuss the Special Legislative Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Aging Report on Monday, March 21st at 5:30 P.M at 167 Holland Street, Somerville.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm