

**May 26, 2016 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the May 26 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the April 28 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Bob Parlin, Mason Weintraub, Rachel Oppenheimer, Mal Malme, Aren Stone, Maya Escobar, Bill Barnert, Kevin Shpritzer, Susan Bernstein, Lesley Phillips, Anna Weick, Linda Daniels

Commissioners Absent: (excused) Jessica Daniels, Kimm Topping, Brian Eiermann, Sylvia Guerra, Steven Lee – (leave of absence) Ted

Guests: Brian O'Connor (Detective with the Cambridge Police Dept.)

- I. **Welcome**
 - a. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.
- II. **Member Announcements**
 - a. Ted is on leave for the summer.
 - b. Brian is resigning from the Commission since he has a new job and no longer will be working in Cambridge or have our meeting time free.
- III. **Police Report**
 - a. Detective O'Connor and the Police Department is working on getting training for Pro Ambulance.
 - b. He is working to get more updates from Commissioner Burke
- IV. **Council on Aging Board Meeting Presentation - May 10**
 - a. John, Aren and Elysia Chandler went to this event.
 - b. They presented the Senior Housing Project.
 - c. It was well received by the audience.
- V. **Teacher Appreciation Event - May 3**
 - a. Those who attended had a nice time, but attendance was low.
 - b. We need to work on a more effective means of outreach.
 - c. Perhaps we need a contact in each school to extend the invitations.
 - d. The idea was proposed to contact Melody Brazo and Ed Byrne early in the next school year to assist with outreach.
- VI. **Mayfair – May 15**
 - a. Commissioners who staffed our table reported on their experiences.
 - b. Everyone had a positive report.

- c. We were asked by members of the AIDSWalk if we wanted to participate in the event this year or next.
 - i. While we are unable to raise funds as a Commission, the idea was suggested that we could help run a water stop in Cambridge.
 - ii. Linda will connect with them to discuss possibilities.

VII. Youth Pride – May 21

- a. Commissioners who staffed our table reported on their experiences.
- b. The event seemed a bit smaller than in the past.
- c. Our role in this event is less about outreach and more about supporting the youth in attendance.

VIII. River Festival – June 4 – 12-6pm

- a. Commissioners who can help staff the table should email Kevin about availability.

IX. Transgender Arts Event - fall

- a. Mal and Anna have been having planning meetings.
- b. We are partnering with BLAA (Boston LGBTQIA Artists Alliance) to think things through.
- c. In terms of venue, no decision has been made, but the YWCA is a possibility.
- d. If any commissioners know relevant artists who can help plan or participate in the event, they should contact Mal and Anna.

X. All-Gender Bathrooms Committee

- a. The Committee decided to switch the name from Gender-Neutral to All-Gender to simplify the language.
- b. The City will hopefully send something (postcard, brochure, letter, etc.) out to establishments.
- c. The Committee is having discussions to come up with recommendations for what the City could send.
- d. The Cambridge Library now has a sign with our suggested wording. “The Cambridge Public Library welcomes patrons to use the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity. In addition, a gender neutral restroom is located in Administration on the second floor”

XI. Communications Committee

- a. The City has been working with a new version of their content management system for their new website.
- b. The new website is at least a few weeks away from getting online, after which point we can receive training on how to manage our site.

XII. Cambridge Somerville Elder Services Question

- a. They emailed the Commission looking for information on groups or activities that bring together LGBTQ youth and elders.
- b. Some ideas and suggestions were discussed, and Aren will pass them along.

XIII. Diversity Committee

- a. This will be a new committee.

- b. Linda is heading it, and she asked some questions to the Commission.
- c. What prompted the thinking about this committee, and what is diversity to us?
 - i. Pride Brunch, as well as other events, has primarily been attended by white people.
 - ii. The Community Recognition Awards also have gone to white people.
 - iii. We would like to be more representative of our City in terms of gender, ethnicity, race, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, etc. – race being paramount.
- d. Linda asked if the Commission would be open to having a race-focused training or workshop.
 - i. John gave Linda some suggestions for contacts in the City who may be able to set us up with such a workshop.
 - ii. Others offered suggestions as well.
- e. Anna suggested people consider taking the course entitled “White People Challenging Racism” offered through Cambridge Adult Education.
- f. Linda will reach out to solicit members to join this Committee.

XIV. Pride Brunch – June 11 – 9-11am

- a. Renae Gray will be receiving the Bayard Rustin Service Award.
- b. We discussed the Community Recognition Award(s).
 - i. Rachel solicited nominations from commissioners during the previous month.
 - ii. She presented these nominations to the Commission for discussion.
 - iii. Community Recognition Awards will go to Sam Greenburg and Sarah Rosencrantz, founders of the overnight youth shelter, Y to Y, and Freedom Massachusetts, the coalition working for the passage of the Transgender Rights Bill.
- c. Milo O’Connell from CRLS will be the winner of the Rose Lipkin Award.
- d. Rachel will set up our table at the event, and other commissioners are welcome to join her.

XV. LGBT Youth After School Activities Survey Project

- a. Kimm, John, and Aren are working with Elysia Chandler on this project.
- b. They are creating a list of afterschool activities in Cambridge.
- c. Elysia will develop a survey to give to these organizations to gauge their policies and practices about LGBTQ youth and adults in their organizations.

XVI. Announcements

- a. John got an email about a Cambridge Needs Assessment meeting on June 20 at MIT in the Walker Memorial Hall from 8:30am to 12:30pm.
 - i. The key question – What does this community need to be a better community? – will be addressed at this meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm