

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: Thursday, March 24, 2022, 6pm

Agenda

Co-Chairs: Noelani Gabriel Holt and Bill Barnert

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Bill Barnert

In attendance: Nolani Gabriel Holt, Bill Barnert, Bob Bordone, Noelani Kamelameia, Frank Arce, Amelia Joselow (staff), Olivia Sevey, Rachel Oppenheimer, John Gintell, Lauryn McNair, Soltan Bryce, Nefyn Meissner, Badriyyah Aisbah, Lesley Philips, Kat Long, Linden Huhmann
Absent: Jennifer Mathews (staff), Cameron Van Fossen, Greg MacDonough, Kate Grams, Steven Lee, Warner Santiago

Welcome

1. Assign Minute Taker

Bob Bordone agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

2. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

Minutes from last meeting were approved unanimously

3. Approve / Modify Agenda

4. Introductions:

- a. Name & *(optional)* pronouns
- b. Why did you decide to join the LGBTQ+ Commission?
- c. What are your strengths?
- d. What do you hope to accomplish this year?

Things that people hope to accomplish this year:

- Do a good job as co-chair
- Excited about Pride Brunch and make it great **
- Being a part of an active group and being able to collaborate and have something tangible
- Learn more about working groups and to meet people
- Meet people and get to know commission better
- Concrete progress points
- Build community*****
- Make meaningful and essential impact around youth
- Be more of a presence in the community

- Be part of event planning
 - Find ways to collaborate with other groups
5. **Review of Projects** (current actions, and plans) including reports from Jennifer & Amelia
- Tweaks to the 2022 Report for Senior Housing and is now finalized
 - Amelia is also going through earlier reports and updating data with updated data
 - There is a script for a survey to local businesses to encourage them to install All Gender bathroom signs. City is pushing the “all-gender” language to businesses. Survey will be going out very soon.
 - *Going Forward*: Amelia will go to hospitals and other organizations that Alisha surveyed and give them updated data and reports.

6. Reports from Working Groups

- **All-Gender Bathrooms**: Don't really need commissioner support in this area at this time.

Lauryn wondered: are there incentives for businesses to switch bathrooms over? City can't supply signs but is working to see if they can get a discount. Mostly the City's efforts are to say it is good for customers and business.

Lauryn suggested it might be interesting to know what the barriers are for businesses to change over their signs.

- **Budget**: Just Amelia. Doesn't need more.
- **City Forms**: This working group is in “hibernation” until more is needed. We will leave on list but doesn't need members
- **Communications**: Newsletter sent. Everyone received it, which is great news! Communications also tables events, gives out swag, collects email, and answers questions about the commission.

In addition, we have a brochure that is a bit outdated b/c it talks about where we meet, but of course, right now we are meeting on Zoom. So once we meet, we may update the brochure. We may end up meeting somewhere where we can have a hybrid approach to a meeting.

In communications, we will also need to update the workshop and make sure we keep up with social media. Lauryn has been coordinating this.

- **Community Center**: Community Center is moving forward where there will be an all-ages LGBTQ+ Community Center. It looks like there will be space in one of the youth centers and events at the Senior Center.

There is a job description for someone to do programming for the Community Center, which is exciting. It will be part time – between 15 and 20 hours per week!

Soltan asked about an update on the City Manager search and Amelia had no info on that. :

- **Diversity:**

Rachel reported that the commission hasn't been too active and will need some fresh membership to make sure we are doing our work both within the commission and externally.

The Commission was working on a survey to send to the commission. There is a rough draft and Rachel will tidy this up and hand off before she leaves

Bill suggested that perhaps one of the current members of the committee would like to be on this committee, but it will need more new membership.

- **Events**

The May Fair event is coming up and we will have a table there.

May Fair this year is on Sunday, May 15.

We will need some folks to organize this in 2 parts: 1) making sure it happens and 2) then showing up – it's 6 hours long so we may have a few shifts with 2 commissioners each

Badriyyah volunteered to be the point person for this! Hooray!

- **Handbook:**

This committee has been on hiatus but at some point it may need to be updated. Commissioners should look to see if it should be updated.

- **Public Health & Safety:** Police Commissioner Elow will be at the April meeting. She will be the point person from the police.

[UPDATE 4/13: Comm. Below has a new conflict on this date, so she will be at the May or June meeting, to be determined. - Bill B.]

- Please submit questions you want to ask her to Soltan who will be point person for this.

As a result of the work of the commission, there was an understanding that the police commissioner would come to certain meetings and that the committee would collect questions that people might have for the Police Commissioner.

The title – broader than police – is to involve emergency services, fire, medical response, and public health – so that we are liaising with all of the committee

- **Pride Brunch: We should form a 2022 working group tonight.**

Pride brunch team:

Noelani GH, Kat L, Badriyyah, Amelia, Frank, Noelani K, Olivia, Lesley,
Bob B, John Gintell

- **Recruitment:** Only needed when we need to recruit new people, which we don't right now.
- **Strategic Planning:**
Only needs to meet from time-to-time. Only remaining person on it is Linden
- **Youth:**
Committee was coming up with a questionnaire to meet with GSAs to understand what they would find helpful from the committee

Noelani K and Bill are co-chairs.

Need to re-form soon.

7. Team-Building suggestion (*Lauryn*)

It might be nice to host something social or more formal like a team building event.

A question is: How can we build community over zoom?

- 8. Question:** Should we have a Commission Secretary? Pros/Cons (This came up when new Commissioners were asked to deliver a copy of their Commission appointment to "the secretary of the Commission". Also, having a consistent person take the minutes will make the process much more smooth-lined. And we won't have to waste time at the start of each meeting recruiting a minute-taker who is not prepared.)

No one right now was interested in becoming the Commission Secretary, though it can be a good idea.

9. Report from Rainbows Across Communities

A "group of groups" with Arlington, Lexington, Somerville, Quincy. Anyone can attend from our group.

Bill is the only one who attends right now.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 13 at 5:00pm. These meetings (so far) are only virtual.

This group created yard signs with the name, picture, and info with of a trans or gender non-binary person that could put on walls, yards, etc.

Lauryn asked: Is there more on the signs to learn more about the person (like a QR code). There are 20 signs about a person (but no link) and one that tells people what Trans Day of Visibility is.

The next step is to approve the budget for these signs.

It would be about \$500 to \$600 for these signs.

Bill proposed approving up to \$600 for the signs for Trans Day of Visibility Supplies

Bill made a motion which was seconded and then approved.

If you want to work on this, reach out to Bill. March 31 is the Trans Day of Visibility.

10. Possible Commission Social Event

A possible social event outside would be nice but with an option to move inside if need be.

We can look for park pavilions or have a rain date.

Frank also suggested the possible use of his building which has indoor and outdoor entertainment space

Noelani G suggested perhaps a coffee/shop or bar with a patio

There could also be a budget for this.

Bill will send a Doodle poll with some possible dates/times that can work.

- Starlight Square: Last year the Commission produced 3 concerts at Starlight Square (2 on a Saturday afternoon in June, and one on a September evening).

If we get permission to do this, we will need to get volunteers.

11. Public Comments / Announcements

- On March 31 there will be a gathering at the statehouse for the Trans Day of Visibility. Bill will send around information on this.

12. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6pm (probably over Zoom)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm!