

## **LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Minutes - March 23, 2017**

*In attendance:* Susan Bernstein, Rachel Oppenheimer, Aren Stone, Maya Escobar, Kimm Topping, Jessica Daniels, John Gintell, Silas Weiner, Greg MacDonough, Noe Kamelamela, Devontae Freeland, Kate Grams, Bill Barnert, Abby Duker, Mal Malme, Lesley Phillips, Steven Lee, Bob Parlin. *Excused absence:* Anna Weick, Linda Daniels

Guest: Minh Nguyen

- **Welcome/Introductions**
  - Introductions were made
- **Approved agenda**
- **Approved February minutes**
- **Police Report**
  - Report read by Aren Stone as Detective Brian O'Connor was unable to attend
  - SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) training for city employees is pending contract. The city is very invested in this training.
  - The police department is considering a link on their website for submission of LGBTQ+ concerns
  - A Commissioner notes that in Boston crime statistics show that hate crimes, including those against LGBTQ people, while not increasing, are not decreasing with the rest of violent crime stats and would like to ask Det. O'Connor if this is true in Cambridge as well.
  - Search for the new Police Commissioner is ongoing. Stakeholders meeting are ongoing in the city. The search firm has confirmed that commitment to continuing community building policies is a priority.
- **Future event participation**
  - Youth Pride – Organized by Boston Pride and GSAs from around the state. Bob moved that the LGBTQ+ commission pay \$100 to join this event. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Ethos Fair 3/28/17 – John Gintell and Elysia Chandler participating. They hope to showcase the Storymap if Wifi is available.
  - SCES Elder Services Fair 4/12/17 - John Gintell and Elysia Chandler participating. Plan to have a table and network with other organizations.
  - Town Meeting in City Hall 4/13/17 – LGBTQ+ commission is co-sponsor. Planning meeting 4/3 at 5pm, City Hall.
  - MayFair 5/7/17 – Commission will have a table (confirmed). Volunteers are needed.
  - River Festival 6/3/17 – Commission will have a table this year. Mal Malme reports that there is the possibility that the LGBTQ+ Commission could get a dedicated Art Tent at next year's River Festival. This was tabled for discussion at a future meeting due to time constraints.
  - Pride Brunch 6/10/17 - LGBTQ+ commission is co-sponsor with the Mayor's office. Planning meeting is forthcoming. Bill, Silas, Jessica, John, Susan and Aren have volunteered for planning.
  - Possible event for LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers and Immigrants event for the fall. Bill and Linda will be working with the Immigrants Commission.
- **LGBTQ+ Youth After School Activities**
  - The Commission's Researcher, Elysia Chandler, has been surveying youth organizations with Kimm's help
- **Diversity Training**
  - Plan to delay diversity training to the fall to give it more time and attention

- Plan for training to include one meeting and one additional session during a non-meeting week
- **Story Map**
  - Story Map almost ready for go-live!
  - Elysia Chandler has done amazing work on this project. It is very user friendly.
  - Hope is to demo at Ethos Fair, Elder Fair and Town Meeting
- **MTPC event: Professionals for Transgender Rights 5/26/17**
  - Lesley presents that this event is a fundraiser.
  - Sen Joe Kennedy will be speaking and presented with an award
  - The event will be at Google, tickets will be \$100
  - Motion made and passed to endorse/support this event
- **Budget**
  - Deferred due to time
- **Communications**
  - Committee is working very hard due to the name change
  - Silas and Greg will help with Facebook page
  - Changes will be made to URL and twitter handle. Discussion between @CambridgeLGBTQ (unable to add plus as too many characters) or @CambLGBTQplus. The second option is preferred by the commission.
  - Newsletter to come out soon with new name, announcement of new Commissioners, and Town Hall
  - On the new Cambridge City webpage, the LGBTQ+ Commission is listed under City Hall. Old URL will transfer to new webpage
  - Constant Contact and Google Group have been updated
  - New banner, tablecloth, name tags, business cards will be ordered.
- **Next Meeting 4/27/17**
- **Meeting adjourned at 7pm for + training led by Kimm and Minh.**