

Cambridge GLBT Commission
March 26th, 2007 meeting minutes

I. Call to Order, Appointment of Minutes Taker, Recording Roll

Priscilla Lee took minutes.

Commissioners present: Nancy Alach, Beth Damsky, John Gintell, Priscilla Lee, Seth Lee, Lesley Phillips, Jeff Walker.

Also present: Kathryn Hartford, Commission Intern.

I. Motion to Amend Agenda: Commissioners passed a motion to add the following items to this meeting's agenda: Introduction to Intern Kathryn Hartford and her work with our Commission, E-mail inquiry from Alan Thomas (looking for info on marriage and a GLBT-friendly shelter), February meeting of Commissioners with Toni Currie, Somerville GLBT Liaison.

II. **Motion to Accept minutes from January 2007 meeting:** Passed.

III. **Committee reports and Updates on Tasks:**

1. **Election of Officers (Seth Lee):** Six votes were sent via e-mail to Bob Parlin in last month's election of new Co-Chairs. All six of these ballots cast one vote for Jeff Walker and one vote for Colby Berger to be the new Co-Chairs. Commissioners made a motion to accept the results of the vote. Thank you, Seth Lee and Jeff Walker, for your service as co-chairs in the past year. Hearty congratulations and Thank yous, to Jeff and Colby, in anticipation of your future service.

2. **Establish City Ordinance for GLBT Commission (John Gintell):** At a February '07 mtg, Councilors Michael Sullivan and Brian Murphy (Co-Chairs of the City Ordinance committee) made minor suggestions to the draft- which was subsequently modified to reflect their input. They had earlier suggested that draft be presented ahead of vote to City Manager (as content includes

budget implications), but repeated efforts to reach R. Healy were not successful.

Next Steps: Councilors Sullivan and Murphy will shepherd the initiative through the process, hopefully at the City Council meeting on Monday, April 9 in the Sullivan Chambers (City Hall). Significant Commission presence would be helpful, and at this point, John and Jeff plan to attend.

3. Cambridge Police Department (Jeff Walker): Jeff and Colby met with Police Training Coordinator Joanne Shapiro in Nov to discuss the training proposal (need for, cost of, timing of) etc... and a draft proposal was reviewed at a later meeting. Lt Mike Walsh (who oversees policy/trainings of Police Dept) okayed the plan to have all CPD officers participate in the training (half in '07, half in '08).

Jeff also updated Commissioners on the process of hiring the new Police commissioner- there are three finalists at this point.

4. Kathryn Hartford, GLBT Commission Intern: Kathryn is a senior at U Mass/Boston. She'll be working with us until mid-May with Jeff providing supervision. Her final project for the internship will be "something beneficial for the Commission," probably based on Hate Crimes reporting. She has joined Jeff and Colby on the "CPD training" project and as part of her service she will do a PSA (public service announcement) about Hates Crimes (what constitutes one, how to report one) on CCTV (Cambridge Cable). Welcome, Kathryn and Thanks, Jeff!

5. Beacon Press Event on May 16: Launch of Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages: The Commission will not co-sponsor (as invited to)- conflict of interest. Jeff will follow up with Patricia Gozemba to explain and to offer suggestions for how to publicize.

6. Alan Thomas e-mail: This was an inquiry from an individual (Alan T) seeking info on how to get married and also seeking housing/shelter for a male couple. In this instance, info and a referral seem to meet the need.

Next Steps: The instance brings up the question of the Commission's role/responsibility in dealing with public inquiry.

7. CRLS and protocol re military recruitment (Nancy Alach): In January Kathy Keegan (P10East) and Cathy Hoffman (Peace Commission) met with CRLS guidance counselors to discuss the concern that CRLS students who were being recruited might not fully understand the Military policy (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) for GLBT soldiers. Apparently, much recruitment happens after a student has dropped out of school and in these cases the counselors are no longer involved. The CRLS counselors are open to further briefings by our Commission.

Next Steps: Nancy will try to arrange a meeting of our education sub-committee (Nancy, Bob and Priscilla) with Lynn Williams (CRLS director/coordinator of Guidance) to discuss the possibility of a follow up presentation.

8. Cambridge Pride Brunch: No word yet from the Mayor since Jeff sent an e-mail memo two months ago stating the Commission's position (won't take charge, but quite willing to help)- mayoral staff person Kathy was asked to make sure that the message was registered by Ken. We await follow up regarding the June 9 event, and some of us are able and willing to help out.

9. Senior Housing Issues (Jeff Walker): Mary Leno and Ellen Semenoff have had preliminary discussions about forming a Housing Task Force. Jeff feels it is likely that such a task force WILL emerge and that housing for seniors will be a focus.

10. Meeting with Toni Currie, Somerville GLBT Liaison: Several Commissioners enjoyed meeting with Toni to share info on her job/activities and ours. Priscilla will invite Toni to our April meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth and Colby will represent the Commission at a Holocaust Commemoration ceremony at a Cambridge synagogue (on Tremont St?) on April 11.

April 23rd meeting: As neither Jeff nor Colby can attend, John has graciously agreed to chair next month's meeting.

May meeting was scheduled on a holiday: Date has been changed from May 28 (Memorial Day) to May 21st- meet at 119 Windsor.

Seth Lee announced his resignation and stated that this would be his last meeting. Seth- thank you for your contributions as Commissioner and co-Chair- you will be missed! Please keep in touch.