

Cambridge GLBT Commission

Monday, January 22, 2007 – Minutes

Windsor Street Community Health Center, 119 Windsor Street – 2nd floor conference room

Attending: Robert Parlin, Seth Lee, John Gintell, Jeff Walker (left at 7:30), Priscilla Ho-Hway Lee, Ian Lemieux, Colby Berger (left at 6:45), Nancy Alach (arrived at 6:30), Lesley Phillips (arrived at 7:00)

Minutes: Robert Parlin

Agenda

- I. Call to order, Appointment of Minutes Taker, Recording Roll
- II. Motion to amend/accept Agenda
- III. Motion to amend/accept minutes from November, 2006 meeting
- IV. Committee Reports and Updates on Tasks
- V. Public comment
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Adjourn

Meeting Minutes:

- I. Call to order: Bob Parlin appointed to take minutes, attendance recorded, quorum present (10 active members; quorum=6; 7 present initially).
- II. Motion to amend/accept agenda: ALL-IN-FAVOR with amendment: change date from 2006 to 2007
- III. Motion to accept minutes from last meeting: ALL-IN-FAVOR
- IV. Committee Reports:

Establishing a City Ordinance for GLBT Commission

Update / discussion/ next steps – Seth/John/Lesley

- Seth asked to be removed from the subcommittee due to other commitments.
- An ordinance is needed for new members to be appointed, with terms; specification of the commission's mission; to get staffing (appointment of an executive director); and formal recognition of the commission's work.

Next Steps: John reported that he has scheduled a meeting with City Councilors Sullivan and Murphy (who chair the Ordinance Committee) on Thursday, 2/1/07 at 4:45. John, Jeff, and Leslie plan to attend.

Cambridge Police Department

Update / discussion/ next steps - Colby, Jeff

- Jeff and Colby have sat in on several meetings to develop a GLBT training proposal for the Cambridge Police Department (1/2 the department this spring and half

next spring). A draft of the proposal was handed out. The proposal will be reviewed by the City manager after being signed off on by the Police Commissioner.

- Several commissioners (Priscilla, Bob, and John expressed interest in attending one of the trainings, which will be run by GOAL (the Gay Officers Action league).

- The CPD leader on this training effort, Mike Walsh, is also exploring how other communities in MA like Truro are dealing with hate crimes, with an eye toward establishing a hate crimes protocol. Colby suggested that GOAL might have a more updated hate crimes reporting form with improved language one that is more inclusive of gender identity and expression.

- Jeff announced that he will be on the Citizen Advisory Board to assist in the choosing of a new police commissioner. He will be asking glbt-related questions, and asked that commission members forward specific questions to him if they have them.

- John expressed the hope that the police department will have a representative at our meetings to further the ideals of community policing.

Next Steps: Jeff will write a press release about the training proposal; commission members should forward police commissioner questions to Jeff.

Election of Officers

Update / discussion/ next steps - Seth

- We will need to schedule new elections for the two co-chair and clerk positions.

Next Steps: Seth will send out the job descriptions. Commission members interested in being a candidate for one of the positions should send an email to the yahoo group no later than one week before our next meeting. At that point, the ballot will be compiled by Priscilla and sent out to commission members, Those who will not be in attendance at the next meeting may submit absentee votes up until 12:00 noon on the day of the commission meeting. People should email Bob (brobsf@comcast.net) with their absentee votes. NOTE: This may be a short-term commitment, depending on how the ordinance works out.

Cambridge Rindge & Latin School

Update / discussion/ next steps - Bob

- Bob had little to report at the meeting, unable to contact Peace Commission E.D. Cathy Hoffman about the military recruiting issue, but a subsequent email from Cathy reported that the Guidance Counselors at CRLS have had a successful training on military recruiting issues and would be open to a workshop on glbt issues.

Next steps: Bob will contact the CRLS principal and the head of the guidance department to explore a training on glbt issues for the counselors. Nancy also expressed interest in participating in the training.

Cambridge Pride Brunch

Update / discussion/ next steps - Seth

- There is a clear consensus on the commission as it is currently staffed not being able to realistically contribute to organizing the event. However, the commission also truly values this event as a significant community-building activity. Particular interest is in finding a way to institutionalize the Pride Brunch as a city event.

Next Steps: Jeff will email the Mayor's office to initiate a dialogue about this issue.

GLBT Wedding and Family Expo

Update / discussion/ next steps - Jeff

- Jeff shared information on the Rainbow Wedding Exposition at the Sheraton Commander.

- After discussion, the commission agreed that it would not endorse or participate in this commercial event, but would be glad to forward the information on others on a voluntary basis.

Establishing Official City Web Page

Update / discussion/ next steps - John

- The GLBT Commission has a web page, which is referenced on the front page of the city website.

- John has been sending in updates and minutes.

Next Steps: Further actions are tied to the resolution of the ordinance issue.

Community Outreach

Update / discussion/ next steps - John

- There is general agreement on the need for the commission to have a more public face in the community.

- CCTV guest appearances, press releases, and member presence at city events are various ways to increase our visibility.

Next steps: Jeff is writing a press release about the CPD trainings; Lesley is setting up a CCTV appearance in early March and will send out an email about it to the commission.

Senior Housing Issues

Update / discussion/ next steps – Seth, John

- No progress reported.

- Commissioners are concerned with how glbt seniors are treated by the nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Cambridge. This will be the focus of future fact-finding by the subcommittee.

V. Public Comment: - No members of the public present

VI. Announcements:

- Colby will be unable to attend the next three meetings. Jeff explored moving the meetings to the 3rd Monday of the month, but this was precluded by room availability.

- Seth will follow up with Jeff on formalizing the status of the commission's intern.

VIII. Motion to adjourn: ALL-IN-FAVOR