

Cambridge GLBT Commission Meeting
Monday, July 24, 2006

Attendance Colby Berger, Stephen Crowe, Beth Damsky, John Gintell, Priscilla Lee, Seth Lee, Ian Lemieux, Charles Lin (public), Lesley Phillips (late arrival), Jeff Walker (early departure)

Absent: Nancy Alach, Irene Monroe (inactive), Robert Parlin, Michael Shaps, Adrienne Thomas (inactive),

Agenda

- I. Call to order, Appointment of Minutes Taker, Recording Roll
- II. Motion to amend/accept Agenda
- III. Motion to amend/accept minutes from June 26th meeting
- IV. Discussion of Governor Romney's proposed budget cuts effecting GLBT community and the GLBT Commission's proposed action plan
- V. Committee Reports and Updates on Tasks
- VI. Public comment
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order: Priscilla Lee appointed to take minutes, attendance recorded, quorum present (12 active members; quorum=7; 8 present initially).**
- II. Motion to amend/accept agenda: ALL-IN-FAVOR**
- III. Motion to accept minutes from last meeting: ALL-IN-FAVOR**
- IV. Discussion of Romney's proposed budget cuts- Stephen, John**
Earlier this month Stephen brought our attention to the issue of Romney's proposed cuts to every GLBT-related line item in the State budget. John drafted a GLBT Commission response letter to the issue, while the legislature countered the Governor's Office, successfully restoring every one of those at-risk line items.
Next Steps: John will re-work the Commission letter to reflect gratitude, highlight the necessity of such funding (including that support need), and to assert the existence of our Commission. Seth and Colby will work with John on what makes sense re: who to address the letter to and which newspapers to cc it to. The letter will be run by commissioners for approval in August.

Tangential topic: Recruit a GLBT Commission Intern? Jeff

Jeff proposed that the Commission retain an intern, a local student who can help research Commission-related work while earning academic credit. We discussed:

- Candidate for role (community health, social work, law, or public policy student?)
- Tasks in job description (“watchdog”: bring our attention to GLBT-related issues- as Stephen did earlier this month re Romney’s proposed cuts!) in the press and on community listserves, obtaining statistics -for example from Police Dept- for subcommittee initiatives, work on immediate, short term and on-going tasks...)
- Commission responsibilities to the intern (supervision, filing reports, minimum # of hours...)

Next Steps: Jeff will investigate the process of recruiting such an intern and is willing to supervise the person. He will try to get the internship rolling for September with possible replacement intern for Spring '07 semester.

V. Committee Reports

1. Family Resource Center / GLBT Families coordinator - Bob

Bob was not present to report, but we know that the interview process to fill the position of GLBT Family Liaison has finished a first round.

Next steps: Bob will follow up on if the position has been filled.

2. Military Recruitment policy at CRLS – John, Bob

Still on Task List: Bob to check in with Kathy Keegan (P10E coordinator), Christopher Saheed (incoming CRLS principal) and possibly Cathy Hoffman (Peace Commission) regarding whether CRLS is following its policy (informing Peace Commission in advance of event, preparing guidance counselors, providing opt-out forms to students...)

3. Cambridge Police Department –Jeff

Jeff e-mailed, attempted to set up a meeting with Mayor Ken Reeves and Councilor Denise Simmons, to discuss CPD initiative (GLBT sensitivity training in Spring 07) as well as possibility of planning (Oct '06?) an OUTFEST event. Simmons responds eagerly, still no word from Reeves.

Next Steps: Jeff will ask Denise to add an item to the City Council’s August 7th meeting agenda. Jeff will attend and will express the Commission’s hope to work with City Councilors on getting a GLBT Sensitivity training onto the Police Dept schedule (for Spring '07).

Still on Task List: Update on Police Training models (Jeff, Lesley, Colby) and GLBT Demographics Statistics (John)

More specific tasks will be assigned in preparation for a meeting in September with Ken Reeves and Denise Simmons re police training. The ultimate goal would be to make some suggestions to city officials, who would then set policy and ask the police department to move forward on the policy.

4. Senior Housing Issues –Beth

Announcement: \$50K funding has been restored for organizations that provide services to elders- to be spent towards education on LGBT issues.

Sub-committee still intends to get in touch/meet with Gloria Leipzig who works w/ CHA on senior housing.

Next steps: Beth, Seth and John will meet CHA to get a clearer picture of the housing issues in the city, with a long-term goal of making a report to the City Council summarizing findings and making recommendations for future steps. Questions: What are the policies and practices in all senior housing in the City of Cambridge regarding GLBT issues? What does the Cambridge Human Rights Commission do regarding these issues? Discuss need to simplify the complex housing web (federal/state, variety of funding sources, waiting list policies, etc.)

5. Ongoing Interactions with the Council and the Mayor/establishing our commission and Community Building- Jeff

The commission wants to meet with Mayor Ken Reeves and Councilor Denise Simmons to plan some community building events such as (first proposal) a recognition of National Coming Out Day with a Cambridge OUTFEST on October 11 (possibly use the Senior Center space?). Jeff has emailed- still awaiting Mayor's reply.

Next steps: Community-Building sub-committee (Jeff, Priscilla, Nancy, Lesley, and Bob) will try to meet in August. Also, schedule meeting with Ken and Denise (same to discuss police training), present our ideas for an OUTFEST event. Colby is willing to serve as a liaison with local college groups via Mothership (umbrella org to local LGBT student orgs).

6. Establishing Official City Web Page- John

Rep. Tim Toomey has proposed an order that all City commissions will post agendas and minutes on-line, accessible via the City web site. Ini Tomeu can link mtg info to our current temporary page. Currently on our page: Who we are (mission, priorities), How to contact us, GLBT commission meeting agendas and minutes

Next steps: John will continue to pursue concerns re the evolution of the GLBT Commission web page.

7. Establishing a City Ordinance for GLBT Commission - John

The subcommittee has not yet met, but when it brings forth a proposal, Denise Simmons has agreed to bring it before the City Council to establish the ordinance.

Next steps: Subcommittee will meet soon (Seth, John, Lesley)

VI. Public Comment

Charles Lin found our web site through the City web site. He thinks our web site is pretty comprehensive and he enjoyed visiting the meeting.

VII. Announcements

As the Senior Center is now open to other community groups on Monday PMs, our next meeting (September) may be in a different location.

VIII. Motion to adjourn: ALL-IN-FAVOR