

Cambridge GLBT Commission Meeting Oct 23, '06

I. Call to order

Priscilla Lee will record minutes. Attendance: Beth Damsky, John Gintell, Priscilla Lee, Seth Lee, Ian Lemieux, Lesley Phillips. Visitors: Melody Brazo (newly hired Cambridge Public Schools Family Liaison), Kathy Keegan (P10 East Coordinator), and Neil Minahan (Public).

II. October meeting agenda was accepted with revision

With visitors on hand to present, discuss CRLS reports/issues first.

III. September 2006 meeting minutes accepted without revision.

IV. Committee Reports and Updates on Tasks

Project 10 East and Cambridge Rindge and Latin HS (Kathy Keegan)

FY06 was a rebuilding year for the school GSA, Project 10 East. Auspicious turnout at first meeting of the fall (17 students compared to 12-15 at mtgs last year).

Activities: Kids have been involved with the Youth Leadership Council (regional GSAs get together to develop skills to give presentations) and have been invited to give GLBT sensitivity presentation to 5th/6th graders at the Fayerweather Street School. Last February the students gave a (scripted) presentation at CRLS that was well received.

Will plan a "refresher" presentation for this school year. Other activities include (observance of) Coming Out Day, Day of Silence, collaboration with Students Advocating for Respect (STAR), plans to attend Worcester conference (Transcending Boundaries)

Challenges: Balancing the agenda with what the kids want vs adult perspective on group needs. Current theme: How group can be supportive, welcoming to new members without becoming cliquish. Current Needs: a computer (Priscilla will offer a surplus MAC), also scholarship \$\$ for Transcending Boundaries conference

Cambridge Public Schools Family Liaison (Melody Brazo)

Melody began her new role as CPS Family Liaison last month. Has been meeting with elementary school principals (scheduled meetings), parents and allies (coffee hours at Family Resource Center, 459 Broadway). Melody brought copies of the Welcoming Schools Newsletter that advertised Events (including LGBT Teachers Tea, Coffee

Hours, Family Potluck, Outfest) and Information (including kindergarten registration, elementary school LGBT resources, P 10 East notes).

Next Steps? Both Melody and Kathy will follow up on John's inquiry regarding whether the option of waiving military recruitment is made explicit to CRLS students (sounds like currently it is not, from M. Brazo's description).

OUT Fest (Seth)

We had a quick recap regarding OUT Fest and here are some things for our commission to consider:

1. Do we want to take this on as an annual event? If yes:
2. How about having FOOD available for the event?
3. Let's work more directly with the right staff people in the Mayor's Office, and work more collaboratively with other participating organizations
4. Let's do better at planning in advance for possible rain
5. Last, but quite importantly, all commissioners want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to JEFF WALKER for being such a star organizer for OUT Fest - Thanks Jeff!!

Next Steps: We should have a discussion soon (next agenda) about whether OUT Fest and/or Pride Brunch 2007 are events the commission wants to organize in the future and- if yes, how or with whom.

Establishing a City Ordinance for GLBT Commission (John)

Next Steps: Soon after Election Day (second week of November) John, Seth, and Lesley will try to set up a meeting with (co-Chairs of the Ordinance Committee) City Councilors Brian Murphy and Michael Sullivan- at the meeting they will be asked to be the sponsors of our proposed ordinance.

Cambridge Police Department (John)

John contacted GOAL (Gay Officers Action League) New England- apparently there are two officers in the CPD that are members. GOAL has a 4-hour GLBT sensitivity training that CPD could consider using.

Next Steps: Colby and Jeff are working out a date for a meeting with Joanne Shapiro (Police Training Coordinator) and Michael Walsh (Community Policing Division) to help make arrangements for the proposed Spring '07 training.

GLBT Intern Posting (Jeff in absentia)

No nibbles yet for this position.

Next Steps: Ian will shop the job description to the schools of Public Health at BU/Tufts/Harvard. Visitor Neil Minahan mentions it may be worth shopping the job to law students as well. Seth has Neil's contact info- can we send him an e-copy of the job description?

Senior Housing Issues (Beth, John, Seth)

Seth broached the idea of broadening the issue - of talking to CHA about sensitivity re GLBT families (while maintaining a focus on the needs of GLBT seniors).

Next Steps: Beth will call Gloria L. to arrange a meeting with the "on-site social workers" (CASCAP employees) who may know more about the social dynamics at specific CHA sites- they can be a source of information regarding issues/needs.

City Web Page (John)

Development still in progress- we need to make clear on the web page who is still with the commission (Do currently inactive members intend to become active again? Need to reach some resolution about this.)

Next Steps: We need to make a plan to address the issue of inactive commissioners.

V. Public Comment- Cambridge resident Neil Minahan stayed for the whole meeting. He is an attorney and offers to be a resource (good ties to the local legal community).

VI. Announcements We will meet in the Senior Center upstairs conference room for our Nov and Jan meetings.

VII. Ajourn Meeting ended at 8 PM