

**April 29, 2010 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

I. Call to Order

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Jeff Walker, Bob Parlin, Mal Malme, Toni Snow, Kevin Shpritzer, Lesley Phillips, Tony Wiczorek.

Commissioners Absent: (excused – Sarav Chidambaram, Priscilla Lee, Steven Lee, Colby Berger, Mallory SoRelle and (unexcused) Julia Pallotta

Guests: Supt. Chris Burke and Lt. Stephen Ahern, Cambridge Police Dept.

Richard Juang, has resigned from the Commission.

II. Motion to Accept Agenda: Passed.

III. Motion to Accept Minutes from March 25, 2010 meeting: Passed.

IV. Recent Outreach Events: Mal M., Tony W., Toni S. and Leslie P. participated in Census outreach events at Harvest Coop and Cambridge Elder Services. The shopping bag giveaways are popular but Commission needs to develop a better way to engage participants. Discussed administering a brief survey as a requirement for receiving a shopping bag.

V. Upcoming Outreach Events: May Fair on May 2nd (Toni S., Tony W. and Kevin S.), Holocaust Memorial on May 4th (Sarav C. and Priscilla L.), Riverfest on June 5th (Mal M. and Toni S., with possible support from Jeff W., John G., and Kevin S.), and Pride Brunch on June 12th. Pride Committee will include John G., Leslie P., Priscilla L., and possibly Mallory S.). John G. met with Lee Gianetti (Mayor Maher's Chief of Staff) to discuss the Mayor's participation and taking care of things such as signs, food, setup, etc. We decided that Commission will not march in the Parade as a group with other City Officials since the Logistics are too complex and many people have conflicts. A planning meeting will be set up with Lee, the Commission members, and several others in the School department and prior Pride planning to work on the details of the program,

VI. Keeping Track of Outreach Numbers: Now that we are ramping up our outreach efforts at City-sponsored events, it will be imperative to keep track of numbers of people contacted. Toni S. will prepare a chart for tracking.

VII. Cambridge FY 2011 Budget Hearings: John G. will attend May 4th budget hearing to discuss Commission's need for funding and other resources from the City.

VIII. Gender Neutral Bathroom Policy: Tabled due to Steven Lee's absence.

IX. Update on the Community Charter School of Cambridge – Bob P. had a productive meeting with Principal Paula Evans. The demographics of the CCSC are similar to those of Prospect Hill Charter School; the majority of students are low-income minorities who have extraordinary academic and social needs. Approximately 250 students attend grades 7-12. The primary focus is on academics with little time or resources for extracurricular activities. There are 3 staff of color and no openly GLBT staff. Paula Evans described the school atmosphere as tolerant. The school has a strong anti-harassment policy and minimal bullying as a result. There is no diversity group – as we heard from the representative from Prospect Hill, being gay is perceived as a “white” issue at CCSC.

The school has a sex education class, taught by Molly Green and Bob P. offered Commission’s assistance with GLBT sensitivity training, anti-bullying workshops, and/or self-defense training. We would provide these sessions free of cost. Next steps will include trying to connect Ed Byrne and Prospect Hill people.

Related to this issue, Bob P. has joined the Human Rights Commission’s anti-bullying initiative. He will represent the Commission and will attend the first meeting on May 19th.

X. Elder Issues: John G., Lee Gianetti and Leo Gayne (Mayor’s staff) will meet to plan some effort with Leo and the Commission to work on Seniors’ policies and practices re Housing and Medical facilities.

XI. Self Defense Workshop: The West Cambridge Youth Center is emerging as the likely location for our self-defense workshop. John will re-connect with Michelle Farnum regarding scheduling a session in September/October.

XII. Public Safety: Progress toward implementing GLBT sensitivity training with Cambridge Fire and EMT’s has stalled. Toni S. will contact Chief Gerald Reardon to arrange a meeting with her and co-chair John Gintell to discuss training and other ways the Commission and the Fire Department can work together.

XIII. Announcements: Commission Co-chair Sarav Chidambaram will be honored by the Cambridge Peace Commission with a Peace and Justice Award, May 23rd, 4-7pm at the West Cambridge Youth Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.