

September 24, 2009 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

I. Call to Order

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Sarav Chithambaram, Toni Snow, Tony Wieczorek, Jeff Walker, Mal Malme, Bob Parlin, Leslie Phillips, Priscilla Lee

II. Motion to Accept Agenda: Passed.

III. Motion to Accept Minutes from May 28, 2009 meeting: Passed.

IV. Membership Update

- Discussion of Commission resignations, term expirations, and call for new members. Resignations have been accepted from the following Commission members: Monica Dargan, Chris Mason, Neal Minahan and Richard Scali, leaving four openings.
- Of the six original Commissioners, lots were drawn to determine expiration dates. John Gintell and Lesley Phillips drew one-year terms, Priscilla Lee and Bob Parlin drew two-year terms, and Jeff Walker and Colby Berger drew three-year terms. Those with one-year terms expire Dec. 2009, two-year terms expire Dec. 2010, and three-year terms expire in Dec. 2011. John G. and Leslie P. wish to be reappointed. Of the commissioners appointed in 2008 with one-year terms, Richard Juang wishes to be reappointed.
- Co-chairs will request the City Manager to reappoint John Gintell, Leslie Phillips, and Richard Juang for 3-year terms, and seek applicants for two new Commissioners for 3 year terms, one for a 2-year term, and one for a 1-year term.

V. Events

- **Review of Pride 2009:** The June event went well – Commission had increased visibility this year – but the event ran a bit long and group arrived late to parade in Boston. Also, conflict with date of Cambridge River Festival was unfortunate. Mayor Simmons will issue an Order on October 26th requesting that Riverfest 2010 be scheduled on a date other than the second Saturday in June so that city officials, employees and residents can participate in the city's Pride event.
- **National Coming Out Day – October 11th:** A group of students and chaperones from CRLS, organized by new diversity coordinator Ed Byrne, will attend Washington, DC march. Commissioners invited.
- **GOAL Award, October 30th:** The Cambridge GLBT Commission has been selected to receive an award from the Gay Officers Action League of New England - the *GOAL-New England Community Service Award*. GOAL established this award in 1996 to recognize individuals and organizations that have made a significant positive impact on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. Up to eight Commissioners will attend the award ceremony at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. Mayor Simmons will issue a Resolution on October 5th commending the Cambridge GLBT Commission for their work with GOAL.

- Sarav C. will find out if CCTV can film the award ceremony. John G. will check with GOAL re permission to film.
- The City will pay for a table for eight.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

- Public Safety
 - Police Department – Toni S. will send final Hate Crimes Policy to group and will inquire re status of ongoing sensitivity trainings at CPD. Discussion of Commission’s role in formalizing relations between CPD and GLBT community. Commission should seek input into writing job description for CPD Liaison position. Issue to be revisited at future meetings.
 - New Review Committee – Discussion of how Commission can participate in Review Committee to address how to handle events such as the July 16th incident between Henry Louis Gates and Cambridge Police. Commission must find a way to express its interest in having the Review Committee include GLBT issues in their work.
 - Fire Department – Trainings are being scheduled for November with Fire Dept. employees. Toni S. will inquire to see if EMT workers will be included. Mayor Simmons will issue an Order requesting City Manager to pay \$2000 as compensation to GOAL volunteers for the trainings.
- Schools
 - Discussion of expansion of CRLS’s Project 10E and creation of “Diversity Programs Coordinator” position this school year. New program is expected to increase involvement of gay/straight allies.
 - Meet new School Commissioner, Jeff Young. Welcoming reception to be held at City Hall on October 26th. All Commissioners are invited
 - Outreach to Private/Charter Schools. Discussed need to do outreach to Charter Schools – no tasks assigned yet.

VII. Outreach and Visibility

- Film Project(s)
 - John G. asked for the Commission’s support for a Cambridge Arts Council grant proposal for a film project by Alice Bouvrie.
 - Commissioners Mal Malme and Sarav Chithambaram also plan to submit proposals for their own film projects.
 - Commission voted unanimous support for all projects.
- Gay Games 2014
 - John G. asked for the Commission’s support for Cambridge as the location for the 2014 Gay Games. The proposal was unanimously approved.

VIII. Cambridge GLBT Commission Growth and Development

- Executive Director/staff
 - A reminder from John G. that now is the time (election season) to approach City Council members to ask for support for a paid Executive Director position funded by the city.
 - Discussion of need to develop a business plan. Tony W. will prepare a brief brochure to use for this effort.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.