

LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes
Thursday, November 15, 2018, 6:30pm
Jefferson Cutter House Gallery, 611 Mass. Ave, Lower Level

Commissioners: Julia Forsythe, Bill Gardiner, Mel Goldsipe (vice-chair), Brooks Harrelson, Lisa Krinsky, Helene Newberg, Anna Watson (chair)

Liaisons: Katy Kania from the Robbins Library

Guests: Christophor Gilbert, Megan Morse

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm

Announcement: It's Trans Awareness Week.

Commissioner Goldsipe moved to accept the October minutes. Commissioner Gardiner seconded. Commissioner Harrelson abstained. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

- (1) Request from Robbins Library to cosponsor author event for *Love at Stonegate*. Commissioner Watson has already approved it.
- (2) Request from the Council on Aging to cosponsor a drag event with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Queer Mystic may cosponsor. This was tabled until after the Commission can have an adequate discussion about the role of drag events in our work.
- (3) Request from Diversity Task Group to cosponsor their project to interview people about what diversity means to them. A high school student is leading the project. Cosponsorship was approved.
- (4) Request from a resident to ask that as part of the high school rebuild that binary bathrooms be removed. Commissioner Watson will convey the resident request to the Building Committee.
- (5) Offer from someone on staff at the Boys & Girls Club to offer trans children an open swim time. They also asked about training around trans issues. Commissioner Goldsipe will follow-up.
- (6) Received comments on a RC Facebook post about the flag image we are using, with the rainbow flag next to a trans flag and the trans flag is much smaller. We use the same combined image for all our events but the poster was upset that since it was being used for a trans-specific event, it would be better for it not to appear that the trans flag is less important.
The Commissioners discussed the issue and agreed that the concern is something to keep in mind as we develop a logo. In the meantime, we should think about whether the image we are using for our work is inclusive enough. No decision was made.
- (7) Commissioner Goldsipe sent a follow-up message to Town Counsel about publicizing events we are not cosponsoring but no response received yet.

- (8) Robbins Library liaison and Commissioner Goldsipe exchanged messages regarding gender-neutral bathrooms at the Library. The single stalls all have inclusive signage, but the multistalls do not. For RC meetings and events, we have been taping up all-gender bathroom signs. Improved signage for all Town buildings is on the Commission's to-do list as part of the the HRC's yearly Municipal Equality Index (MEI).
- (9) Health & Human Services Director Christine Bongiorno asked for the RC budget request. A preliminary budget was submitted. There is no admin support available for the RC in the coming year, so that doesn't need to be included in the budget. But we will need someone on the Commission to handle room reservations and check the voicemail once we have a phone number assigned.
- (10) The Library Director asked for a recommendation for Trans 101 training for Library staff. Commissioner Goldsipe recommended the Mass. Transgender Political Coalition and passed along contact info.
- (11) Commissioner Goldsipe had emailed the School Committee to thank them for the Yes on 3 resolution and ask about setting up a joint meeting of a couple representatives from the School Committee and Rainbow Commission with members from the QSAs and GSAs for an initial discussion of ways to increase understanding of trans- and LGBTQIA+ issues among administrators, faculty, and staff. Perhaps the AHS GSA could host. School Committee member Jennifer Susse replied that the School Committee votes on liaison relationships in the Spring, so we should attend a SC meeting then and introduce the idea.
- (12) The ADL invited the RC to participate in the Metro North Advisory Committee. Commissioner Watson told them that we're interested in this kind of intersectional work but also that we're in the middle of strategic planning so this is something we'll have to come back to in the Spring.
- (13) Police Chief Ryan sent us a draft press release regarding recent hate incidents. The public has been alarmed that we seem to have many more incidents than others in the state. Chief Ryan says that reflects Arlington's commitment to reporting all incidents, which other communities do not. Commissioners Watson and Goldsipe will provide a quote to include in the press release.

Statewide Ballot Question 3: Commissioner Goldsipe spoke at a Select Board meeting and Commissioner Forsythe spoke at a School Committee meeting and got both groups to pass resolutions in support of the Yes on 3 effort. Upholding the trans equality law won by a large margin. Commissioner Gardiner gave a breakdown of the town voted. He will write up a summary and submit it to the *Advocate*.

Events:

- (1) The Crafts & Community potluck had about 20 people even though it was in the middle of flash-flooding. Attendees ranged in age from infants to retirees.
- (2) Commissioner Krinsky was a panelist at the *Gen Silent* film screening and discussion organized by LexPride. It went well and there were around 20 attendees.

- (3) The Cake & Community event to celebrate the Yes on 3 victory attracted about 50 people coming and going. Commissioner Forsythe's cake in the trans-flag colors was a hit.
- (4) About 40 people attended the SAGE Table intergenerational LGBT+ dinner organized by the Council on Aging. There were no formal presentations but discussion at the various tables were lively and people were appreciative.

Boston Pride Community Fund: Application deadline is Dec. 15. Commissioner Goldsipe moved that we apply to the fund to pay for 5 community-building events. Bill seconded. Passed. Commissioners Watson and Goldsipe will draft and submit the application.

Open Forum: Commissioner Goldsipe will post an article about Trans Day of Remembrance to our Facebook page and share info about local TDOR events. We will look into a bigger commemoration next year.

Discussion of the True Story Theater event was tabled to the January meeting.

Strategic planning: Previous work was on creating a mission statement. Commissioner Krinsky pulled together 6 pages of material summarizing our previous planning work and proposals for the future. Discussion items include how we would use the data from the Vision 2020 survey from 3 years ago, how we create accountability in our work. We need to give time and attention to who we are as a group. Commissioners will email Commissioner Watson with thoughts about next month's strategic planning session.

Upcoming community events

- a. Boston Trans Day of Remembrance Nov. 18 - March leaves Dewey Sq at 5 pm. Service at Cathedral Church of St. Paul at 6.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/307384040092879/>
- b. Lexington Trans Day of Remembrance Nov. 18 – details to come.
<https://www.lexpridema.org/events/2018/11/18/transgender-day-of-remembrance>
- c. Cosponsoring: Queer Book Group/Social's Annual "I'm Feeling Pot-lucky" potluck, Nov. 28, 7-8:30 pm, Robbins Library, 4th Floor Conference Room, 700 Mass. Ave.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/287048882135990/>
- d. Cosponsoring: AIDS History event with the Arlington Council on Aging and Queer Mystic, Dec. 6.
- e. Cosponsoring: Queer Book Group, Dec. 12, 7 pm, Robbins Library, 4th Floor Conference Room. Reading: *Her Body and Other Parties* by Carmen Maria Machado.
- f. Cosponsoring: Reel Queer Watches *I Am Not Your Negro*, 6:30 pm, Robbins Library Community Room, 700 Mass. Ave.

Commissioner Harrelson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Gardiner seconded.

Minutes submitted by Julia Forsythe, Commissioner