

**LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2019, 6:30 pm**  
**Robbins Library, 4th floor conference room, 700 Massachusetts Ave.**

Commissioners: Mel Goldsipe (Chair), Julia Forsythe (Vice Chair), Lisa Krinsky,  
Helene Newberg, Anna Watson, Bill Gardiner,  
Liaisons: Eliza Phillips (Ottoson student)  
Guests: Colin Bunnell (MSW student)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.  
Colin Bunnell volunteered to take minutes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- GLSEN Day of Silence will take place on April 12.
- April 26 is Lesbian Day of visibility
- Acting Police Chief Julie Flaherty will be attending the April 25 meeting of the Pride Subcommittee, as well as the May 16 monthly RC meeting.
- Chair Goldsipe told the Commission that she spoke at the Select Board meeting and was reappointed to the Commission.

**OPEN FORUM**

No community members were present.

Commissioner Watson gave an update regarding the restorative justice process in regard to the vandalism at Arlington High School. She read a letter to the Commission from the final student participating in the process, outlining what he had learned and the impact that it had on him.

A discussion was had regarding other recent incidents, including a swastika at Brackett Elementary School, a hate speech incident on a school bus, vandalism at Ottoson Middle School, and an incident at Magnolia Park.

Commissioner Goldsipe informed the Commission that the Arlington Human Rights Commission was working on an incident response plan, but that the schools had yet to sign on. The Commission agreed to address the issue with School Committee member Jennifer Susse following Pride.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Krinsky moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Gardiner seconded that motion. The minutes were adopted without dissent, with two abstentions (Commissioners Watson and Krinsky).

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Mar 28: Email from a kindergarten teacher with a student who changed pronouns asking for resources.
- Mar 27: Reply from Acting PD Chief Julie Flaherty about Pride activities.
- Mar 29: Email from School Committee member Jennifer Susse about Anna's reappointment and attending an upcoming meeting.
- Mar 30: Wayne Maines, father of trans activist and actress Nicole Maines (who spoke in Arlington previously), reached out with a request for cards to Nicole's brother Jonas on his college graduation.
- Apr 8: Email from resident inquiring whether anyone from the RC is interested/available to lead group of allies to MFA "Gender-Bending Fashion."
- Apr 10: Reply from HR director Caryn Malloy about MEI: She's attending the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Association Training on Gender Identity in the Workplace: Preparing Policies and Personnel with speaker Ev Evnen, Executive Director of MTPC. And she'll get back to us about an audit of signs for single-stall bathrooms in town buildings and SO/GI inclusive language in town contracts, job ads, etc.

## BUDGET

The Commission discussed the budget and the process by which Town Meeting will review. Commissioner Krinsky briefed the Commission regarding a recent Finance Committee meeting at which the Commission's budget request was reviewed and then approved by the Finance Committee in full.

## EVENTS

- The Commission determined that with Pride coming up, a social event in May may not be necessary.
- Commissioner Krinsky gave the Commission a recap of the event with the Council on Aging.
- Chair Goldsipe raised the question of internships with the Commission, and the matter was set aside for future discussion.

## SUBCOMMITTEES

### *PRIDE:*

the next meeting is April 25, 7:30PM, at the Senior Center, Arts & Crafts room, second floor. Commissioner Forsythe will be chairing. Acting Chief Flaherty will be attending. The Commission discussed the Pride proclamation, to be raised at the June 3 Select Board meeting. Commissioner Goldsipe will draft the proclamation, Commissioner Watson to work with her. The subcommittee will also need to ask select board to approve painting the crosswalk, hanging flags at Town Hall, and related commemorations.

The Commission discussed placing an entry in the Chairful Where You Sit event. The Commission discussed whether it would be acceptable to use funding from Boston Pride to host an event on the same day as Boston Pride. It was agreed that the subcommittee would discuss and decide.

### *COMMUNICATIONS:*

Chair Goldsipe will work on the newsletter, and send out before the Pride Subcommittee meeting.

The Commission discussed a new logo for the Commission. No decision was reached.

### *STRATEGIC PLANNING:*

A half-day strategic planning session will be held May 11 at the Whittemore-Robbins house. Chair Goldsipe will try to have policies & procedures draft ready to discuss.

Commission vacancies were discussed. The Commission was notified that there were very few applicants thus far. The Commission discussed recruitment at the Pride picnic.

## LIAISONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Chair Goldsipe discussed the Magnolia Park event on Sunday, and emphasized the need for the Commission to plan to show up for others' events, if we want people to show up for us.

The Commission discussed an invitation from the Police Department to host an event at the new facility, as well as a possible initiative for training police on LGBTQIA issues.

The Commission discussed the Inclusion Day event yesterday at the high school, which was described as very successful

Jennifer Susse of the School Committee wants to come to the Commission's July or August meeting. Liaison Phillips will confirm their schedule

The Commission discussed upcoming True Story Theatre events.

Commissioner Goldsipe reported that the League of Women Voters of Arlington has update their language about membership being open to “women and men” to say “The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization of people of all genders.”

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Apr. 4: Reel Queer watches Frida, 6:30 pm, Robbins Library Community Room, 700 Mass. Ave.
- Apr. 24: Robbins Library Queer Book Group discussion of the autobiography I Can't Date Jesus: Love, Sex, Family, Race, and Other Reasons I've Put My Faith In Beyoncé by Michael Arceneaux, 7 pm, Robbins Library Conference Room.
- Apr. 26: LexPride Social (usually fourth Friday of month), 7-9 pm, Lexington Community Center Dining Room, 39 Marrett Rd, Lexington. Games, puzzles, books, crafts, projects, friendship, light refreshments (not dinner). Family-friendly event suitable for all ages. All are welcome.
- Apr. 27: Annual Drag Prom, cosponsored by Mystic LGBTQ+ Youth Support Network, Robbins Library, the Council on Aging, and the Rainbow Commission.
- May 22: “The State of Hate in Massachusetts and What the Community Can Do to Respond,” presented by ADL’s Metro North Advisory Committee and Wakefield Human Rights Commission. Savings Bank Theater at Wakefield High School.
- Jun. 9: Lexington Pride Celebration.
- Other events have been added to website.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Student liaison Phillips discussed the drag prom, and confirmed that was still the name for this year. The Commission discussed the previous decision of the Commission that it was too late to change the name for this year but that students and other stakeholders would need to discuss naming the prom for next year.

Commissioner Gardiner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Krinsky seconded. Without dissent the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Minutes submitted by Colin Bunnell