



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners: Lisa Krinsky (Co-Chair), Andy Rubinson (Co-Chair), Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Kari Sasportas, Brooks Harrelson, Molly Blaauw Gillis.

Liaisons: Len Diggins, Select Board; Marci Shapiro-Ide, Council on Aging; Christina Coleman, DEI.

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Kari Sasportas assigned as minute-taker.

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Assign minute-taker – KS
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. BH motion to approve; SRV seconds
5. Commission Membership/Recruitment/Infrastructure
 - a. Recruitment for 3 new Commissioners – Slots open: 2 general (BH stepping down) and 1 school committee.
 - i. MBG will reach out to parent community and teachers outside of the district that reside in Arlington to recruit.

- ii. AR will reach out to faith leaders and NAACP to recruit.
 - iii. RC will continue to recruit via social media.
 - iv. Discussion: importance of personal contact and connections for outreach but also the challenge to recruit beyond people we already know. RC also seeks transgender representation. For outreach, RC can communicate what we do in terms of tasks and activities.
 - v. Other recruitment ideas: suggest interested residents reach out to a Commissioner to better understand commitment and ask questions; potentially host a Coffee with a Commissioner (need a number of dates to set up 1-2 live coffees and zoom).
- b. Increased Outreach opportunities
- i. RC could invite non-binary Arlington resident who is on the show Survivor to meet the community and potentially co-host with Envision Arlington community engagement group.
 - ii. MBG suggested surveying the community for input on priorities and create engagement.
- c. Strategic Plan discussion
- i. Aim to hold strategic planning meeting during RC monthly meeting on January 20, 2022. Suggest regular business from 6-6:30 PM, 6:30-9 PM strategic planning.
 - ii. Discussion regarding in-person or remote. If in-person, need to run by JH and check room schedules for availability.
 - iii. Agenda will be sent ahead of time for Commissioners to prepare.

6. Liaison Updates

- a. Council on Aging: MSI reported 2 people attended Real Queer movie on 10/28. Movie series will move to Wednesday nights every other month. Next movie, called "I love you Philip Morris," will be held in December. Tuesday groups meet in person at Town Hall a few times a month. Sage Table event for 11/18 has 35 RSVPs, including 10 students from GSA. Food will be provided by Twyrl. Last LexPride event with True Story Theater, held online, had about 20 attendees.
- b. Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI): No liaison present.
- c. Library: No liaison present.
- d. Police Department: No liaison present.
- e. Select Board: No updates (LD had to leave for another meeting).

7. Working Group Updates and Membership

- a. Community Engagement Events – November: SAGE Table; Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) activities with LexPride. Arlington First Parrish UU TDOR outdoor flag display. Ottoson GSA will paint Arlington Heights window for RC. ACMI interview with LexPride.
- b. Communications – November newsletter was released and publicized events mentioned above. Newsletter will transition to MBG and AR will assist. SRV will send out Mail Chip reminder for TDOR.
- c. Public Education – Leadership task force is making progress; standing meeting on 3rd Thursday of every month. Arlington Human Rights

Commission will partner on speaker series. Ottoson student will attend next RC meeting.

- d. Town Systems & Policies
 - i. HRC/MEI report review: score pending from HRC.
 - ii. Hate Crimes Training Follow up: MBG, LK, and MSI attended. During training, few opportunities for police/community interaction. RC follow up could address how to help police and community members get to know one another before there is a crisis/incident. RC could help convene community conversations with members of the police force and help build connections.
 - iii. Police Study Committee update: Committee is completing listening sessions with the community. About 12-13 sessions were held, including town employees, police union, faith community, residents with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ residents, BIPOC residents and other stakeholders. Both positive and negative experiences shared by LGBTQIA+ residents. There is broad consensus that a permanent oversight committee be set up and recommendation for Arlington to set up a new system for complaints. The new committee can be a partner in policy and data collection. Add topic to next month's agenda.
- 8. Public Engagement and Open Commentary - no members of the public attended.
- 9. Close and Next Meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2021

8:10pm: MBG moved to adjourn meeting, LK seconds, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: December 16, 2021, 6:30 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.