



## LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

**Date:** Thursday October 20, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 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>

Present: Commission Co-chairs Susan Ryan-Vollmar and Lisa Krinsky, Commissioners: Molly Gillis, Helene Newberg, Laura Gitelson, Paloma Cotton-Herman, Kym Goldsmith  
Excused: Andy Rubinson, Kari Sasportas

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM

### Minutes

1. Remote Participation Statement and Guidelines
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review and approval of August and September 2022 Minutes
  - a. Both sets of minutes were approved
4. Commission Membership: Review Commission members' terms
  - a. Helene Newberg January 2023
  - b. Susan Ryan-Vollmar Jan 2023
  - c. Lisa Krinsky 2024
  - d. Molly Gillis 2024
  - e. Kari Sasportas 2024
  - f. Laura Gitelson 2025
  - g. Paloma Cotton-Herman 2025
  - h. Kym Goldsmith 2025

- i. Andy Rubinson renewed until 2025
- 5. Hybrid Commission Meetings
  - a. Jennifer Susse from the Remote Participation Study Committee was present to talk about/answer questions about Hybrid Meetings to help RC decide how to proceed. The Governor's order allowing for remote participation currently expires March 31, 2023. We are expecting a proposal from legislature, no idea what it is going to look like.
  - b. The Study Committee is planning a Pilot with a few committees, representing different sizes and amounts of public participation. Pilot ends March, check in by study committee.
  - c. As we move forward there are some key decision points
    - Technical Issues: What to do in case of technical failure?
      1. Technical Lead of some sort (staff members will be trained – Jill and Teresa) might want to have a committee member also trained – SRV will train
      2. Conference room at Health & Human Services, 2 screens, really good audio. Only thing is no names like in Zoom
    - Public Participation: Hybrid access for members of the public participating? How to make it equitable for in person v. remote. One co-chair can monitor remote participants.
    - When do we start? November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - d. How will the pilot be evaluated? Survey of members and participants
  - e. Susan asked about what other committees are doing in case of technical failure - no one has decided. Lisa asked if conference call is a possibility if internet is lost?
  - f. Jennifer Susse - right now things are super flexible, most important that whatever you are doing is clear to the public
  - g. Susan asks what we need to do to start in November -
    - someone needs to be trained (SRV)
    - reserve the conference room (DEI staff)
    - need to have good policies/communications
    - plans for how to engage everyone
  - h. Commission members expressed support for participating in the pilot. We could have a working group to set up policies/procedures.
  - i. Voted unanimously to start hybrid meetings at November 17 meeting
- 6. Working Group Updates
  - a. Education
    - Molly - planning on first taskforce meeting
    - Data collection - work on how questions are worded, safe schools, community conversations, curriculum - health and wellness - last year worked on grade 5, this year 3 & 4, working on rainbow alliances at all the elementary schools and create connectivity
  - b. Community Engagement
    - November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance - agreed on candlelight vigil and placing flags on the UU church lawn. Paloma

volunteered to speak with Andy about planning an event, hopefully co-sponsored with the Human Rights Commission

- October 1 picnic – cold day but 15 people showed up and stayed
- Some people interested in gathering of families with young children

c. Communications

- No update, but Susan pointed out a nice quote from Chief Flaherty in a recent Globe article

d. Town Systems & Policies

- Lisa asked about SOGI questions included in this year's Envision Arlington survey; Len says it would be great to have input soon (within next month)
- Lisa will provide standard SOGI questions.

e. Budget

- Swag: most swag, including all water bottles all gone by end of Town Day. Will reorder swag and start thinking about Pride – contact Lisa to join swag team
- Just received \$1000 donation from Town Faire tire foundation
- Discussion about sponsorship/fund requests -what are criteria for what events, groups, amounts that we contribute?
- Working group for spending criteria - Molly, Paloma, Laura and Kym

7. Liaison Updates

a. Council on Aging (COA)

- Halloween party October 27<sup>th</sup> and SAGE Table November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Marci asked if the Commission to contribute \$250 to SAGE Table; Commission to review/discuss request

b. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

- DEI Audit – ongoing
- Workshops with consultants for town employees
- Working with other communities/municipalities on a 2 year project on language access (MAPC)
- MLK committee will be returning their program to in person, 35<sup>th</sup> year

c. Police Department (APD)

- Chief Flaherty reported that she is working with Margaret Thomas APS/DEI and Jill on facilitating conversations with students of color
- Since September meeting Town has been served with the lawsuit regarding incident from February 2021. In addition to the Town 3 officers were named. Doug Heim has been working with the officers. No dates for court proceedings yet. Chief Flaherty updated news release on the website to let the Town know they were served
- APD has received a grant to hire an additional inhouse clinician, need someone who can work weekends/evenings, crisis

experience.

- d. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson/Gibbs
    - AHS GSA: Recent meeting about intersection of religion & queer identities
    - First meeting of the year - 55 kids showed up (haven't had club day yet) have almost doubled attendance in 4 years. Over 100 students belong to GSA google classroom. Not just queer identifying, allies, questioning, kids of queer families.
    - GSA Asking RC for a grant to plan activities and provide snacks for meetings
    - Susan moved RC gives the GSA \$250 for snacks/activities. Unanimous Yes vote.
  - e. Library
    - Top 2 books being attacked around the country are Gender Queer and All Boys Aren't Blue – Arlington library is committed to including these books and others
    - Nov 30 - next queer book group - the Chosen & the Beautiful
    - Dec 8 - Reel Queer
  - f. Select Board
    - Envision Arlington Survey – Submit SOGI questions and any other input now.
8. Public Engagement and Open Commentary - none

Meeting Adjourned 8:10 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday November 17, 2022 at 6:30pm.