



## LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

**Date:** Thursday December 15, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Conducted by hybrid participation: 27 Maple Street, Arlington Community Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor HHS Conference Room and via Zoom

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

1. Attend in person at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance. 2. **\*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. 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.
2. 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: In Person- Susan Ryan-Vollmar (Co-Chair), Lisa Krinsky (Co-Chair), Helene Newberg, Kym Goldsmith, Andy Rubinson; Online-Molly Gillis, Kari Sasportas, Laura Gitleson, Paloma Cotton-Herman

Guests: Jillian Harvey, Dana, Marci Shapiro-Ide, Len Diggins, Tim Ross,

### Minutes

- 1) Remote Participation Statement and Hybrid Meeting Guidelines
- 2) Welcome and Introductions
- 3) Review and approval of November 2022 Minutes
  - a) Susan moved to approve; Helene seconded, unanimous approval
- 4) Commission Leadership in 2023
  - a) Kari & Susan had a conversation and Kari will lead town systems and policies working group. Susan motioned and Lisa seconded. Unanimous approval. Lisa to take minutes in Jan.
- 5) Moms Demand Vigil Sponsorship
  - a) RC cosponsored. Had pretty good attendance. Several speakers from Moms Demand and

State Rep. Sean Garballey. Read names of 200 people killed from gun violence. Bells at UU church rang 26 times for victims of Sandy Hook.

6) Planning for 2023

- a) After last month's discussion on strategic planning process, Susan and Helene spoke and Helene has some ideas on how we can proceed. We've gone through several of these in the past. There are a lot of things we can do as a Commission. Rather than trying to refocus strategically, as a mature commission, we can move forward with an organized roadmap for the year. Co-chairs will help devise goals for the various working groups and we can discuss in our Jan meeting. Focus should be more on providing structure to our planned activities for the year. Susan and Helene will build roadmap for the year and circulate prior to Jan meeting.

7) Working Group Updates

- a) Education – Subgroup meeting tomorrow for planning. Laura is meeting with a bunch of folks to create plans. Want to get rainbow alliances set up in all schools. Rainbow Taskforce end of Jan.
- b) Community Engagement – TDOR report and Paloma and Andy to meet over holidays to do some planning.
- c) Communications - Your Arlington article on TDOR event with a lot of Facebook engagement. Instagram account now set up and Kari will run that, along with Facebook. Current mailing list has 467 people. Len asked about website and activities and efforts being made with updates. Helene gave a history on the origins of the site
- d) Town Systems & Policies – Envision Arlington Survey was finalized between last meeting and this one. Kari revised one question on gender identity. Susan provided some helpful guidance on best practices for the question-and-answer options. Would like to be able to get involved earlier, if possible. We could be proactive and start thinking about inputs in Sept, so we're ready to share when asked.
- e) Finance – Budget working group met Monday and talked about goals, setting up guidelines and process for how we distribute funds. Looked back at warrant article and will meet again in Jan.

8) Liaison Updates

- a) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) – Continuing 3 big projects: Racial Equity Workshops – 3<sup>rd</sup> session this week. Big learning experience with plenty of challenges. Equity Audit going well. Focus groups wrapped up and planning to do a public presentation on results in Feb. MLK event will be in person in Jan 16 at 6:30 at Town Hall. Jill and Crystal Haynes have taken over. It's a separate non-profit. Jill is also the president of the Mystic Valley NAACP.
- b) Police Department (APD) – Chief Flaherty shared update via email, copied below:
  - i) 19 APD Supervisors attended a police leadership and accountability training this week at APD.
  - ii) All APD members have attended three of the racial equity workshops hosted by the Town.
  - iii) As part of Criminal Justice Reform, the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPSS) was required to establish data collection and reporting standards for criminal justice

agencies. As a result, EOPSS established 501 CMR 18.00 requiring police departments to collect the following information for every arrest and summons:

State Identification Number	Gender Identity (new)
Offense	Assigned Sex (new)
Date of Offense	Pronouns (new)
Time of Offense	Age of Offender
Location of Offense	Status of Offender as Primary Caretaker of a Child (new)
Offender's Address at the Time of Arrest	Offense Based Tracking Number
Race of Offender	Bail Status
Ethnicity of Offender	

- iv) This will mean that some of our policies will be updated. Chief Flaherty can talk about this more at the January meeting.
  - c) GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson/Gibbs – AHS organizing a bake sale benefiting GLAAD. Gibbs QSA selling sweatshirts to benefit Trevor Project. Sharing info to Molly, Marci, Kari to help get the word out.
  - d) Library – Emailed update – New librarian, They/Them, previously worked at Roxbury public library. Reel Queer film Group Screening Bros on Feb 9.
  - e) Select Board – Searching for Town Manager and will be assessing applicants in Jan. Three residents on screening committee to choose candidates to advance in process, but do not make final selection decision.
  - f) Council on Aging – Reel Queer last week. Hosting Arlington & Beyond karaoke, pizza, & cocoa event on Jan 19 with GSA. LGBTQ+ seniors and friends still going on Tuesday but will be cutting back a bit from the frequency of events. Requested that we connect with Marci on any community events to include multi-generational participation.
- 9) Public Engagement and Open Commentary – Move to close. Susan moved to adjourn and Helene seconded.
- 10) Close and Next Meeting. Thursday, January 19, 2023. 6:30pm Hybrid