

From: "Adam Chapdelaine" <AChapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>
 To: "Christine Bongiorno" <CBongiorno@town.arlington.ma.us>, "Kristen DeFrancisco" <KDeFrancisco@town.arlington.ma.us>
 Date: 12/05/2017 04:46 PM
 Subject: Fwd: Application for LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission

Adam W. Chapdelaine
 Town Manager
 Town of Arlington
 730 Massachusetts Avenue
 Arlington, MA 02476
 (781) 316-3010

-----Original Message-----

From: "TownManager" <TownManager@town.arlington.ma.us>
 To: "Adam Chapdelaine" <AChapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>
 Date: Tue, 05 Dec 2017 16:16:01 -0500
 Subject: Fwd: Application for LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Anna Watson <anna@thetotalfemme.com>
 To: townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us
 Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2017 11:22:45 -0500
 Subject: Application for LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission

Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine
 730 Mass. Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Mr. Chapdelaine,

I am writing to apply for the position of Commissioner on the Arlington LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission.

Since moving to Arlington in the mid 1990s, I have organized for the LGBTQIA+ community here, starting with a potluck for LGBTQIA+ families when my kids were in elementary school (2005), and including helping to establish a GSA at Ottoson Middle School in 2011 (now the OMS QSA). The OMS QSA is now completely sustainable and integrated into the infrastructure of Ottoson. This is due in part to the fact that we were able to secure a grant from the Arlington Education Foundation that first year to pay the advisor a stipend, and that, in subsequent years, the advisor's stipend was included in the school budget.

I am also the adult advisor and founder of the first official homeschool QSA in the world: the Boston Area Homeschool QSA (2011, now a program of Queer Mystic). We continue to meet every Tuesday morning in the Robbins Library conference room, where the members plan events and, most recently, have fundraised to help the local organization, Youth on Fire.

In 2015, colleagues and I founded a grassroots, all-volunteer organization to respond to the needs of local LGBTQIA+ youth: Mystic LGBTQ+ Youth Support Network (Queer Mystic). We observed and were told by LGBTQIA+ youth that all the support and social organizations for LGBTQIA+ youth were located in difficult-to-access areas, such as downtown Boston and Framingham. In response, we partnered with the Arlington Center for the Arts, now our fiscal sponsor, and were allowed to use a donated classroom for drop-in nights for LGBTQIA+ youth.

From the very beginning, we made it a priority to listen to the needs of our target population, and to make use of existing youth and public resource locally to help translate those needs into appropriate programming. For two years in a row, our efforts have been recognized by the Boston Pride Community Fund, from whom we have received grants for operating expenses and programming.

As founding president of Queer Mystic, I have formed and chaired a Steering Committee and a Youth Advisory Committee, secured chaperones for events and established protocol for adults working with LGBTQIA+ youth, helped facilitate drop-in nights and other social activities for LGBTQIA+ youth, including a hugely successful Drag Prom last spring. I have written grants, liaised with community organizations, and made sure Queer Mystic continues to evolve in response to the particular needs of our suburban LGBTQIA+ youth.

One of Queer Mystic's most recent accomplishments is the establishment of the Rainbow Alliance. This is a pilot program for 4th and 5th graders, introducing them to LGBTQIA+ issues, something that has been

requested by older youth for years, as they say LGBTQIA+ bullying begins in grade school. This program is facilitated by a fourth-grade teacher, the school psychologist and a school aide, and is funded by a grant from the Arlington Education Foundation. At the end of the school year, curriculum will be made available to the other public elementary schools in Arlington. Queer Mystic also sponsors Parent Forums on LGBTQIA+ youth issues, and has joined forces with the Arlington Human Rights Commission, the Arlington Council on Aging, True Story Theater and the Arlington International Film Festival, among others, to offer intergenerational events to the LGBTQIA+ community and allies.

Having worked with many Town organizations, those mentioned above as well as the schools, the library, the faith community, the Arlington Youth Counseling Center and the Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition, and the Housing Corporation of Arlington; with state organizations such as GLSEN, PFLAG, and SpeakOUT Boston; as well as having lived in Arlington for over 20 years and raised my kids here, I would bring a deep knowledge of the Town to the Commission, especially around LGBTQIA+ issues. And because I believe that quick fixes, solutions dependent on the work of one or two individuals or based on outdated models often cause more harm than good, I am committed to making sure that responses to the needs of the local LGBTQIA+ community are sustainable, long-lasting and flexible, with lots of room for growth.

It would be an honor to serve my community as a Commissioner on the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission and to use my experience to continue helping to make Arlington a safe and welcoming place for all.

Please be so kind as to consider me for a position as Commissioner on the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission. Thank you!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Anna Watson

200 Spring Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476
watsonam@verizon.net
781-641-1398, land
781-645-8715, cell

Attachments:

File: Anna 2017 resume.docx	Size: 99k	Content Type: application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document
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Anna Watson

200 Spring Ave., Arlington, MA 02476, 781-641-1398 h, 781-645-8715 c,
watsonam@verizon.net

Present Occupations

President and Founder,

Mystic LGBTQ+ Youth Support Network (Queer Mystic), 2015 –
present

A community-based, volunteer-run organization that works to ensure support and social opportunities for local LGBTQ+ youth; we also facilitate educational programming for the wider community on LGBTQ+ issues and work with community organizations to enhance their ability to include LGBTQ+ youth.

Self Employed Editor, Tutor, Writer, and Publisher.

Editor and Tutor, Creative and Academic Writing; ESL, 1984 -
present

Writer of fiction and non-fiction – publication list available upon
request. 1984 - present

Founding Publisher – Lazy Femme Press, 2014 - present

Past Positions

Founding Director

Free Books of Boston, Inc., a nonprofit distributing free books, 2001-
2012

Book Reviewer - *Natural Health Magazine*, 1998

Editor of Literary Journals - *Folio*, *Salmon*, 1988, 2000

Office Assistant - Harvard University, 1993 - 1996

Education

BA, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1980, Asian Studies

MFA, American University, Washington, DC, 1989,

Creative Writing (Fiction)

MA, Episcopal Divinity School, 1994, (Feminist Liberation Theology)