



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.
Larry W. Ward
Charles J. Marquardt
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING **Minutes of October 11, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM on October 11, 2023, by the Chair, Commissioner Harris. Present were the Chair, Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Ethridge King, Executive Director Tanya Ford, and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris: Present
Commissioner Larry Ward: Present
Commissioner Charles Marquardt: Present
Commissioner Ethridge King: Present

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were given.

Motion: To close Public Comment.

Moved by Commissioner Harris
Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt
Passed: 4-0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of October 4, 2023 with corrections.

Moved by Commissioner Harris
Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt
Passed: 4-0

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

None given.

2. Assistant Director's Report

Assistant Director Waxman reported that families of Rindge Ave Upper School has received permission from the school to hold a bake sale on Election Day. Ms. Waxman will report back to the families that it's fine to set up in the same location as last time.

Assistant Director Waxman reported the training portal is ready and the login information will be sent out to the workers between October 12 and 13.

Assistant Director Waxman reported that as soon as the Scytl email is sent she will notify the Commissioners to let their Poll Workers know to look out for the email.

Commissioner King stated that he will submit his list later in the evening to the Executive Director and copy Ms. Waxman

Assistant Director Waxman stated that Commissioner Harris had turned in her Early Voter list, and requested the other Commissioners to turn theirs in as well.

Commissioners' King will submit his Early Voting worker list with the November 7, Poll Worker list.

Commissioners' Marquardt and Ward will talk with the assistant Director after the meeting

Assistant Director Waxman requested that Commissioner Ward switch his Poll Worker list from a Google Drive format to an Excel format.

Commissioner Harris asked if the office was going to mail out hard copies of the training manual. Ms. Waxman confirmed hard copies will be mailed out

Assistant Director Waxman gave a vote-by-mail update: As of October 10, the office received 11,493 EV ballot requests, 114 Absentee ballot requests. As of the week of October 2, the office mailed out 8,240 EV ballots.

Commissioner Marquardt asked if the Commissioners should open the Ballot boxes on October 13, or should the DPW. Executive Director Ford will request DPW to open the ballot boxes on Friday morning, October 13.

Commissioner Harris, on behalf of all the Commissioners, gave the office a big thanks for getting the vote-by-mail ballots out.

3. Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Marquardt reported that there's a news article online that refers back to the October 2, City Council Meeting and the article is not the most clear with regard to whether things are being done in response to the request that was submitted to the City Council by the Election Commission for Police Officers on Election Day. Based on the October 2 City Council meeting a couple of citizens asked Mr. Marquardt if they should be concerned about their safety since there will be police officers at the precincts. Mr. Marquardt responded to the two inquiries by telling them that police are required by the new votes act and there are always assigned to each voting location.

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about various aspects of the security concerns, and how to respond. Executive Director Ford stated that the safety concerns are not just limited to election day, but this goes back many years and various incidents. Below are the highlights of the lengthy discussion:

- Executive Director Ford stated that a full-size door (floor to ceiling) will replace the half saloon door to enhance the security at the Election Office at 51 Inman Street.
- Commissioner Harris stated that the Commission should have a coordinated response for questions raised by the public and poll workers about safety concerns related to elections.
- Commissioner Harris asked if any of the Commissioners would be interested in working with the PIO and the City Manager's office in crafting an election safety response. Ms. Harris volunteered to contact the PIO and City Manager's office about a coordinated election safety response.

- Commissioner Marquardt suggested the office have a hidden panic button installed at 51 Inman St for emergencies. Commissioner Ward agreed.
- Commissioner Marquardt mentioned that There's a police detail at the License Commission office.
- Executive Director Ford stated that she doesn't believe a fulltime police detail is needed at 51 Inman. Ms. Ford also stated that she was told there's a security camera at the entrance of 51 Inman St.

Commissioner Ward reported that he and Commissioner Harris are continuing to meet with CRLS students to work at the polls on election day.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that he watch a large portion of the Charter Review Committee meeting Tuesday night (October 10)—the committee ran out of time and did not discuss the election agenda item.

Commissioner Harris reported that she has a meeting scheduled with Assistant Professor Justin de Benedictis-Kessner next Wednesday, October 18, from 2 to 2:30.

Commissioner Harris reported that she has scheduled DHCF voting Neville Center, on November 1 at 10:30 AM

Commissioner Ward and Harris are making their final push for CRLS student poll workers

Commissioner Ward suggested that Commissioners' Harris and Marquardt should attend the meeting with Assistant Professor Justin de Benedictis-Kessner.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Municipal Election

Commissioner Harris asked the Board if they still need workers, for the most part the Commissioners said yes.

Motion: Board of Election Commissioners have determined under MGL Chapter 54, Section 14, to fill the remaining election worker vacancies without regards to party affiliation, voter status, or residency.

Moved: Commissioner Harris
 Seconded: Commissioner Ward
 Passed: 4—0

New Business

Next meeting is in person and is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Moved: Commissioner Harris
 Seconded: Commissioner Ward
 Passed: 4—0

A True Record

Attested by: Ethridge King
 Ethridge A. King, Secretary