



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • January 24, 2018

Commission Members Present: Georges Atallah, April Crehan, Aboma Dirbaba, Kaza Fraley, Gladys Friedler, Amelia Joselow, Elka Kuhlman, John Ratliff, David Seeman, and Regina Yang.

Commission Members excused: Chair Larry Kim

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr and Program Coordinator Crystal Rosa.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Ratliff moved to approve the December minutes and Commission Member Crehan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously with edits addressed.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kim greeted the members, and with several newly appointed members, asked them to share some highlights about their year to get to know each other better.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Corr reminded the Commission about the retreat on Saturday, February 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the YWCA Cambridge Library. The retreat will allow attendees to have a shared understanding of the vision and mission and structure of the Commission, brainstorm goals for the year based on the members' interests. During the retreat, members will be able to address their interests and learn how those passions fit with the mission and ordinance of the Peace Commission.
- ED Corr helped lead an interactive public conversation hosted by Mending Cambridge on ending sexual harassment and gender-based violence on January 3, 2018 at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. There were approximately 40 attendees present.
- ED Corr informed the Commission about his work with the Citizens' Committee on Civic, which is organizing a public event on implicit bias with Harvard professor Mahzarin Banaji, one of the authors of the book *Blindspot*.
- The following suggestions for presentations were provided by members of the Commission and ED Corr:
 - City Demographics (Community Development Dept.)
 - Citizens Committee on Civic Unity
 - Veterans Services Department
 - Cambridge Police Dept. Safety Net program
 - School mediation programs
 - Leaders from groups of faith, including the Cambridge Black Pastors Alliance and the Harvard Chaplaincy
 - Partners in Health
 - Other Peace Commissions

- Cambridge's active Sister Cities

New Business

- **Feedback MLK Day Commemoration and Remembrance Event**

Members of the Commission provided the following feedback regarding the event and gave suggestions for possible future improvements:

- Possibly having a children's choir
- Highlight young voices - having young people participate in the reading
- More music - having another song or two
- Troubleshoot chair shortage during lunch for next year

- **Don't Bank of the Bomb – Forum on Nuclear Divestment**

Commission Member Ratliff, who has helped coordinate the event for Massachusetts Peace Action, discussed the program for the event scheduled for January 27, 2018 at the Main Library. Peace Action is hoping that a city-sponsored event on how to divest from nuclear energy and other military industries will encourage other cities to follow suit. State Representative Mike Connolly will be talking about his interest in creating a state law that can make it possible to divest.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.