



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-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of September 28, 2022

Commissioner Marquardt called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on September 28th, 2022 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Present
Commissioner Harris	Present
Commissioner Marquardt	Present
Commissioner King	Present

Also present were Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman

Motion: Move to suspend the rules to bring forth Professor Stuart's presentation

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes

Passed: 4 — 0

Professor Stewart of MIT was introduced by Commissioner Harris. He thanked commission for all the work done by the commission. He had two asks, 1) wants to know if his students can work as poll workers, and 2) If students could perform an "observational study." In a prior study done in Boston, students were placed in a polling place for about two hours and performed several tasks with the goal to determine how long it took to vote. He stated it would be an academic exercise to take place in two precincts.

Commissioner Ward asked why he had stated the MIT would not be a good site. Professor Stewart stated it would be better for students to be in the community and away from their familiar surroundings and it would be better to be in a "higher traffic site." Commissioner Ward also asked did he have any feedback from the precinct workers as to how it worked to have students in their precinct? He responded students are instructed to be as in conspicuous as possible. Suggested large gyms are better for being less conspicuous. Commissioner Harris noted that she was glad a protocol would be in place regarding voters wondering what students were doing. She also asked how "high/low performing precinct." Were defined. He stated High clean modern facilities, big and bright. Low- places are those that have facilities challenges, such as low lighting, too small, and small Spaces. Commissioner Harris asked if students are expecting to be paired and prepared to work all

day? He thinks they would like to be paired. Also stated job sharing would be nice. Ms. Ford- asked was he referring to volunteer or paid work. Professor Stewart thinks paid is best. He stated the observational program would work as a fall back. Commissioner Marquardt noted Harvard Business School has election day off and MIT did not. Ms. Waxman stated we have a shortage of workers; we can take vote on hiring additional poll workers six weeks ahead of election without regard to voter registration status. Commissioner Marquardt stated getting additional poll workers would be very helpful. Using the university resources to make elections better is important. Commissioner Harris thanked Professor Stewart for approaching the election commission and she is very excited about this project and looking forward to working together.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

Motion: To close public comment
Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes

Passed: 4 —0

II. MINUTES

Motion: Minutes of September 7th, 2022 accepted with corrections
Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes

Passed: 4 —0

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

Attended City Council meeting on September 12th regarding "Code Red." The city decided not to use Code Red. Ms. Ford stated there were comments made that we did not do enough to notify people about voting. Commissioner Harris asked if there is an option to create a notification about voting and if we can get on several lists the city use to notify residents about different issues such as parking, and trash pick-up. Ms. Waxman noted the election was noted in the daily update email twice in addition to the three city-wide mailings, social media posts, and press releases. Commissioner Marquardt added

that we put signs around the whole city. Commissioner Ward noted there was voting across the entire country, and it was in every major newsfeed, newspaper, and news cast, and stated the election office staff does a tremendous job make sure people know about elections in Cambridge. Commissioner Marquardt echoed those remarks and added the amount of information disseminated about various changes was a lot. He also added the amount of information people received was reflected in the lack of people going to the wrong polling places. He offered to reach out to Councilors to acknowledge their concerns and let them know we will be working to make it better. He also, noted we had tables at fairs. The deadline to receive ballots is November 12th, which is a Saturday at 5:00 pm. Ballots must be postmarked by 8:00 pm election day. Trying to coordinate pickups at the post office prior to 5:00 pm November 12th. CK will reach out to coordinate with the post office.

Ms. Ford will bring back election coordination meetings by working with City Manager's office. She talked with the City Manager, and he agreed there will be two meetings. The first to focus on all the details. The second to double check and make sure things don't fall through the cracks. This meeting will include all the city departments involved in elections. Commissioner Harris added maybe we can do a "debriefing" after the election. Presented a draft designated early voting location schedule (R-2). Commissioner King reported schools are closed on September 8th. Commissioner Harris pointed we should keep Saturdays 9am – 3pm. Ms. Waxman stated we need to vote today due to the deadline being is Sunday October 2nd. Commissioner Harris proposed at least one night to go later than 5 pm. Ms. Waxman noted that the number of people voting early is not great. CH will follow up on stuff in the drop box.

Motion: To accept the designated early voting in-person locations schedule for the November 8th, as amended.

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes

Passed: 4 — 0

Commissioner King asked if we could get the fire apparatuses to keep from locking them every night. Commissioner Harris pointed out this is standard operating procedure in other jurisdictions. Commissioner Ward agrees with Commissioner Harris and do not think we need to ask questions every time we want to decide on a policy. Commissioner Marquardt asked if it is an issue closing drop boxes sooner is an issue since we can count ballots the next day. Ms. Waxman stated if everything is the same as it was in the November 2020 election, we do not have to take all the ballots to the polls on election night and can count them later when we count the ballots that come in and are marked before 8 pm election night the following Monday. The only issue is having someone at the drop boxes to lock them at 8 pm. Commissioner Harris asked when ballots are expected to be sent to local elections offices. Ms. Waxman stated she was told by the Secretary of State's office between now and October 12th. Commissioner King asked how many requests do we have in the que from September for November? Commissioner Marquardt asked if ballot question fit on the ballot. Ms. Waxman replied yes, either the front or front and back. No ballots styles required a second page. Commissioner Harris will follow up on fire apparatuses for drop boxes.

Motion: To accept the official ballot drop box locations listed on R2 and set the ballot box hours 7am -8pm, seven days per week

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes

Passed: 4 —0

2. Assistant Director's Report

1. September 6, 2022 Provisional

a. The two provisional voters that were pending RMV inquiry at the last meeting were registered and the ballots were tallied

2. September 6, 2022 Official Results and Turnout (R4)

3. State Primary Statistics:

a. Turnout: 24% (16,692 ballots cast; 69,189 registered)

b. Ballots mailed out (AV and EV): 12,427

c. Mailed ballots received back (AV and EV): 8,136

d. Voted early in person: 1055 at EV locations, 20 in-office absentee, 35 at designated health care facilities

e. Voted in person on election day: 7,433

f. Ballots Processed during advanced processing: 3,562

g. EV ballots received on 9/6/22: 1409

h. Ballots hand counted at the senior center from 8 pm drop box pickup: 504

4. Updated Polling Location List (R5)

Commissioner Marquardt asked do we know how many votes came in on September 7th and after? Ms. Waxman responded she will check and report back. Listed results in R-4 Commissioner Harris stated Cadberry Commons is requiring all voters to be masked. Since we cannot require voters to mask, the thinking is that all voters use the patio entrance. Commissioner Harris will go there to discuss details. She also got feedback from poll workers regarding Lexington Ave. firehouse, 1) Voters will be entering through the main door which means workers will need some sort of heating device, 2) People were slipping due to rain/wet floor in 9-1. This issue needs to be address before the election.

Motion: To accept the City of Cambridge polling precincts of 2022 listing as of September 28th, 2022

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes

Passed: 4 — 0

Ms. Waxman reported the number of early voting applications at 14,611.

3. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Harris: Feedback from poll workers about how September went. Some stated it would be helpful to have some additional training around closing the evening, counting the ballots with the tapes, and notice an uptick in options for half day shifts. What to know if we could do some filming for training and also working with CRLS students.

Commissioner Marquardt: 400 Mass Avenue is not a valid address

Commissioner Ward – Dean Gahant has put out a call to the person who will help coordinate student workers.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

None

Early voting planning

Commissioner Marquardt will make a couple of changes in staff. Ms. Waxman stated to get all changes to Ms. Francis as soon as possible.

Motion: **The Board of Election Commission has determined there are not enough election officers appointed, therefore the Board of Election Commissioners will appoint poll workers without regard to political party affiliation, voter registration status, residence or inclusion on a list from a local party committee**

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes

Passed: 4 — 0

Community events and outreach

Commissioner Harris mentioned several events the election commission should participate in for next year, such as Danehy Family fun, and meet your neighbor day – having a city table with election information. Commissioner Marquardt stated we can have a table at “Rib Fest” in East Cambridge. Commissioner King noted that we only netted one person from Cambridge Crossing event.

New Business

Next meeting October 6th, at 2:30 pm via zoom
October 12th, 5:30 pm
October 19th, 5:30 pm
October 26th, 3:00 pm

Commissioner King – Asked about getting schedules for pre-processing. Commissioners will send availability to Commissioner Marquardt for auto mark, ballot packing,

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Ward	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes

Passed: 4 - 0

A True Record

Attested by: _____
Larry Ward, Secretary