



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • December 18, 2019

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair Elka Kuhlman, Co-Chair Larry Kim, April Crehan, Kaza Fraley, Amelia Joselow, David Seeman

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr

Call to Order: Co-Chair Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commission Member Seeman moved to approve the October 2019 minutes and Commission Member Crehan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- The Commission agreed to wait to recruit new members to the new year.
- ED Corr announced that Congresswoman Ayanna Presley will speak at this year's Martin Luther King Day Commemoration on January 20. ED Corr stated that there are more volunteers this year and attendance is expected to be high.
 - Co-Chair Kuhlman volunteered to post the event information on NextDoor.
 - ED Corr will email the Commission if he needs more help.

Working with Race: The Power of an Illusion

- The Commission agreed to do a series of events that would be public screenings of the three episodes of the documentary series *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, followed by facilitated discussions after the screening.
- Commission members asked ED Corr to find out if the Citizens Committee on Civic Unity would be interested in cosponsoring the events. There was also discussion of having food at the events.
- A potential goal of this effort would be to highlight how privilege plays a role in each of our own individual stories, and the role the ways people benefit from the racism in the system have influenced where we are today. It was also noted that it would be important to have clear goals that the Commission wants to accomplish with the series.
- There was also a recommendation that Commission members listen to the New York Times podcast "1619," which talks about how racism began in America starting with the importation of enslaved people from the continent of Africa.
- ED Corr stated that he would work to secure a date and location in March.
- Next Steps
 - ED Corr will look through the website: racepowerofanillusion.org
 - The Commission should think about what might be helpful as part of framing the discussion
 - The first event will be the first video.
 - Co-Chair Kuhlman will send an email reminder to the commission to review the website.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM on a motion from Commission Member Joselow , seconded by Commission Member Seeman, approved by unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.