



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 August 26, 2020

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm on August 26, 2020 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

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

Also present was Assistant Director Lesley Waxman. Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump was supervising the ballot processing at the Senior Center and would join the meeting if possible.

I: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of August 19, 2020 with corrections

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call

Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
Commissioner Ward	Absent
Commissioner Harris	Yea

Passed: 3—0

II: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

2. Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Waxman stated that there were no written reports submitted at this time due to the workload at the Commission.

Commissioner King asked about the number of ballots received versus applications submitted. Ms. Waxman stated that over 26,000 ballots were mailed, with 890 being mailed today. She also reported that the Commission has been communicating with the Post Office regarding the mailing, and that delivery has been made a priority. Approximately 8600 ballots have been returned by mail as of 8/25/2020.

Those in attendance discussed the possibility of a high turnout at early voting sites on Friday, August 28, given that some voters have not received their mail-in ballots to date. They also noted the increase in ballots being deposited in the drop box over the past few days.

Ms. Waxman also provided an update on the advance processing of ballots. Monday - Wednesday, 8/24-8/26/2020 were days devoted to the removal of ballots from envelopes, with the depositing of ballots into the tabulator occurring on Thursday-Friday 8/27-8/28/2020.

Commissioner Marquardt commented that he was present at the advance processing today, and that the group involved in the advance processing work was focusing on larger precincts that day.

3. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Harris reported the following:

- The in-person early voting taking place at the Water Department was going well. She noted that there were many people voting there who had requested a mail-in ballot, which did require a lot of phone calls to the Commission. This may be something to note for in-person voting on September 1.
- She had scheduled an appointment with residents at Neville Place to assist with the voting process on 8/27/2020.

Commissioner Marquardt stated the following:

- He and Commissioner King had attended the automark testing on Friday, 8/21/2020 at the Corporal Burns DPW location.
- He had conducted two in-person training sessions on August 24 at 10 am and 3 pm. Nineteen people attended these sessions.

Commissioner Ward joined the meeting at 2:47.

Commissioner King reported the following:

- He and Commissioner Marquardt were supervising the Valente Library early voting site. Activity seemed light.
- He had emptied the drop box at 51 Inman Street and reported roughly 500 ballots were deposited there. He expects the numbers to increase.
- He had sent a memo regarding the mail-in ballot application deadline to the Public Information Office, along with other information. He would like to encourage people to use the drop box to return their mail-in ballot. Ms. Waxman suggested editing the language in the proposed press release.
- He also reported on site preparations for the precincts and said that all was progressing well.
- Commissioner King stated that 17 Story Street, 14 Irving Street, and 46 JFK Street are not valid addresses.
- He stated that 1130 Mass Ave. is a valid address

Commissioner Ward stated that he was at the Senior Center earlier in the week as early processing was occurring.

Commissioner Marquardt added to his report, stating that he had contacted the Cambridge Postmaster's office, and spoke with the assistant manager there. The assistant manager stated that the postal service is focused on delivering ballots and then returning them to the Commission as soon as possible.

III PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Motion: To close public comment

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Passed: 4—0

Old Business

State Primary

Commissioner King stated that two zoom calls/meetings will be held for inspectors and wardens and clerks. There will only be 2 commissioners on each call.

Commissioner King asked about sending out SCYTL links to training. Ms. Waxman stated that the company issues the email.

There was discussion regarding a tallying session for workers. Given pre-processing of ballots, there doesn't seem to be a higher rate of auxiliary ballots than what has normally occurred at previous elections.

Commission Harris asked if drop box information could be more prominently displayed on the Commission website. Ms. Waxman stated that she could feature it there.

New Business

Early voting for the November 3rd election will be from 10/17 - 10/30/2020. There was discussion regarding hours, number of sites, public school schedules in October.

Commissioner Marquardt commented on the same-day registration process and impact on procedures.

Commissioners King and Marquardt will be at the ballot packing process on Friday, August 28, at 10:00 am.

Next meeting will be held on September 1, 2020 at 9:30pm via Zoom

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 3:23 pm

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

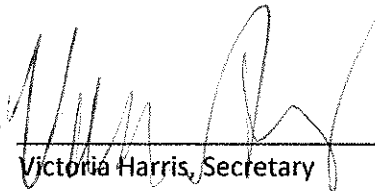
Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Passed: 4—0

A True Record

Attested by:



Victoria Harris, Secretary