



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • Oct. 19, 2016

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair Frank Connelly, James Eliscar, Georges Atallah, Elechi Kadete, Aboma Dirbaba, John Ratliff, and Regina Yang.

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr, Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Dep. Supt. Elow.

Commission Members Absent: Co-Chair Larry Kim, Lijun Li, and Gladys Friedler.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:24 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Ratliff moved to approve the September minutes and Commission Member Yang seconded the motion. Unanimous vote reached of Commissioners in attendance at the September meeting.

Presentation from Neil MacInnes-Barker, Executive Director of Veterans' Services Department

Director of Veterans' Services Department Executive Director MacInnes-Barker provided a thoughtful and reflective summary of goals being set forth by the department. Executive Director MacInnes-Barker explained the intersection of challenges between homelessness, addiction, mental health, and support for families that a veteran faces during and after their service.

The Veteran Services Department is in the process of reshaping the way Veterans are celebrated on Veteran's Day, transitioning from only a ceremonial program at the cemetery to including an Appreciation Day at City Hall from 1 pm to 4 pm. Veterans and their families will be able to enjoy food, music, chair massages, and other services.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Corr is starting the planning phase of the upcoming events of Martin Luther King Day and the Holocaust Commemoration.
- Executive Director Corr discussed the apology delivered by the Police Chief of Wellesley Police Department, who serves as the President of the International Association of Chief of Police. The apology occurred during the President address at the annual IACOP conference in San Diego.
- Executive Director Corr will send the Commission information about a Cambridge Public Library event: *Karen Frostig & the Vienna Project* for Thursday November 3 at the Karen Frostig. The event centers on topics related to the Holocaust, Black Lives Matter, community development, linked to history and memory.

New Business

- **Follow up on “Don’t Bank on the Bomb” presentation**
Commissioner Ratliff has volunteered to work with the students who presented during the February meeting regarding nuclear divestment. They are developing a program with MIT, which will start in the new year. The program aims to inform employees on how they can find out more information regarding their investment portfolio and how to choose ethical investments. After the February 2016 meeting with the Peace Commission, the presenters went on to speak at a Cambridge City Council hearing and were able to commit council members against the Cambridge Retirement Board’s investment in nuclear related companies. The Council endeavored the Peace Commission to create a forum in reference to nuclear divestment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 16, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.