



# Cambridge Peace Commission

*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • February 21, 2018

**Commission Members Present:** Georges Atallah, April Crehan, Kaza Fraley, Amelia Joselow, Elka Kuhlman, John Ratliff, and David Seeman.

**City Staff Present:** Executive Director Brian Corr

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Dirbaba moved to approve the January minutes and Commission Member Atallah seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### Executive Director's Report

- ED Corr announced that the Dance for World Community Festival, produced by Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre (JMBT), will be in Cambridge on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 6 pm. Stages will be set up in Harvard Square for dance performances. Part of the work of JMBT is to connect dancers to each other and to connect dance and the arts to efforts for social change. The Peace Commission is a supporting sponsor. There will be outreach tables set up and the Commission has been asked if it wants a table. ED Corr encouraged the Commission to participate for exposure. The Commission could share information about Meet Your Neighbor Day, handouts about the Commission's work and events, have a mailing list signup, and marketing material giveaways. Commission members discussed whether to form a workgroup to consider what should be on the table, or ask our already formed workgroups to figure out how best to transfer the work they do into information for the table.
- ED Corr provided an update about the Galway, Ireland sister city relationship, which has existed for nearly 20 years but has been relatively inactive until the last few years. The Mayor of Galway has been invited by Mayor McGovern to visit Cambridge later this year.
- In response to question about the City's budgeting process, ED Corr summarized the process for developing the budget for the Commission as a City department. The fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th. In December, there is a budget kickoff meeting to talk about overall goals and the process for the next six months. After that, departments work on reviewing their budget plan. ED Corr collaborates with a budget analyst, looking at the benchmarks that feed into the commission's goals, i.e. what we have accomplished and what will be accomplished by the end of the fiscal year. In mid-February, ED Corr will meet with the City Manager's Office and Budget Office to review the proposed budget. Once finalized, the Peace Commission budget documents are incorporated into the complete proposed City budget that is presented to the City Council. In May, the council holds public meetings and asks individual departments to come forward to answer questions. The complete City of Cambridge budget is adopted in late May.

### Updates:

- Mending Cambridge is commemorating White Ribbon Day on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30 at the high school. The focus is working on making domestic and gender based

violence a men's issue. ED Corr has participated in this event for the last 3 years. All are welcome, but men are specifically encouraged to attend.

### **February retreat follow up:**

- Workgroups  
Workgroups generate ideas around specific projects or issues and bring their ideas back to the Commission for approval in a public meeting. A workgroup cannot communicate their ideas directly with commission members but can send them to Brian and he can share them.

The following workgroups were established:

- Meet Your Neighbor Day  
Commission members: Crehan (convener), Ratliff, and Fraley  
Focus: Meet Your Neighbor Day on the third Sunday in September
- Trauma and Resilience  
Commission members: Seeman (convener), Kuhlman, Joselow, and Chair Kim  
Focus: What are the areas where the Commission can focus on that do not interfere with support systems already in place?
- Connecting with youth and young adults  
Commission members: Dirbaba and Yang  
Focus: How can the Commission bring more young people into the activities we are already doing?
- Communities of faith partnership with the commission  
Commission members: Kuhlman (convener), Atallah, and Fraley  
(There was a question about whether this topic should be included into Meet Your Neighbor Day.)

### **New Business**

- Future agendas will balance workgroups, updates from ED Corr, and guest speakers
- There was discussion about whether the Commission should extend the meetings by ½ hour to go from 6:00 to 8:00 PM to give time for the workgroups to do their work
- Commission Member Ratliff announced that the Working Peoples Day of Action is on Monday, February 26 – is a national day of action to support the rights of workers to unionize. It is taking place in two locations, 125 Purchase Street, Firehouse in Boston and City Hall in Somerville.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.*