



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • December 22, 2021

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

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr, CPD Deputy Superintendent Fred Cabral

Call to Order: Co-Chair Kim called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

- Exec. Director Brian Corr reported that seven people went through the commission interview process. The panel of interviewers was ED Corr, city staff member Taha Jennings, commission member David Seeman, and commission Co-Chair Elka Kuhlman. ED Corr expects that the City Manager will select approximately five of the people interviewed will be moved forward for approval by the City Council, along with four current members for reappointment, and all for three-year terms.
- ED Corr explained that along with submitting short biographies of the new candidates to the City Council he would need to submit biographies of the present commission members for the Council's information when they vote on the appointments and reappointments.
- ED Corr shared that he anticipated newly approved members would be able to attend the January Commission meeting.

Planning for Future Events

- Commission members again discussed the pros and cons of doing the annual commemoration of Dr MLK Jr event online.
- Wonderings included whether people in general are weary of online programs, would creating content and posting it on our website be more accessible to people, is there a way to collaborate with other groups, should we do a press release saying something like "Recognizing that we can't gather the way we should, we would like to recognize the way we could," and other ideas for being creative.
- Co-Chair Kim shared the idea of having a speaker that could help connect the hate/prejudice Asian Americans are experiencing with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Co-Chair Kim recommended Prof. Randall Jeung, co-founder of Stop Asian Hate, as a possible speaker and offered to help in facilitating an invitation.

Welcoming New Members

- Knowing that our meetings will continue over Zoom indefinitely, commission members discussed ways to help integrate new members.
- Commission members shared their experience in participating in a retreat when they first joined the Commission. They found it helpful in getting to know each other, in developing a better understanding of the work of the Commission, and in the brainstorming of common interests for possible future focus areas. All agreed that having a retreat would be valuable for all members of the Commission.

- The idea was shared of having the January meeting be more of a “get to know you” meeting and then have the retreat in February or March, and all agreed that would be a helpful progression.
- Commission members discussed creating a buddy system that would connect new members with members already on the commission as an additional way to help build connection and support for new members, especially while the meetings are happening remotely.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM on a motion from Commission Member Seeman, seconded by Commission Member Kim, approved by unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 19th, 2022 via Zoom.