

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • May 21, 2025

Commissioners Present: Co-Chair Larry Kim, Co-Chair Elka Kuhlman, Annie Brown, Kaza Fraley, David Seeman, Bonnie Talbert

City Staff Present: City Manager Yi-An Huang, Chief of Equity and Inclusion Deidre Travis Brown, Administrative and Project Coordinator Ryan Welsh, Employee Engagement Manager Saffana Anwar

Call to Order: Co-Chair Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Commissioner Talbert, seconded by Commissioner Seeman, the minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously following minor edits.

Update from the Cit Manager

- The City Manager shared his perspective on the current policy order and his takeaways from the budget hearing. He believes the Council is interested in looking at all the Boards and Commissions to see where there might be redundant or irrelevant topics. Despite the council's questions at the budget hearing and the subsequent policy order, there was not a discussion about zeroing out the budget for Peace Commission.
- Peace Commissioners asked questions and discussed the situation with City Staff.

Checking In

- People shared brief personal and professional updates from the last month.

Staff Updates for the Commission

Holocaust Commemoration

- Admin Welsh gave a short overview of the event, noting that 107 people attended.
- Everyone who attended remarked that the event was well-organized and that the speaker did an incredible job.
- The Commission also discussed that finding a survivor will get increasingly difficult as time goes on. We will need to rethink the format at some point soon. Some people suggested that we need to start looking for a survivor sooner and perhaps we could partner with another municipality like Newton or Brookline.

Meet Your Neighbor Day

- The Commission discussed Meet Your Neighbor Day briefly. The group would like to plan a more strategic approach to communications.
- The decision on dates was tabled until the June meeting. Under consideration were September 19-21, September 26-28, and September 19-28.
- Commissioners requested an email with the information from Meet Your Neighbor Day 2024 to prepare for the June meeting.

Public Comment

- No members of the public were present to comment at the time available for public comment.

Next Steps

- Commissioners will meet again June 18.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM on a motion from Co-chair Kim, seconded by Commissioner Talbert, approved by unanimous vote.

The next hybrid meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 51 Inman St., 2nd Floor or online.