



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • January 16, 2019

Commission Members Present: Georges Atallah, April Crehan, Kaza Fraley, Amelia Joselow, Elka Kuhlman, David Seeman

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr and Deputy Superintendent Robert Lowe

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Joselow moved to approve the November minutes and Commission Member Fraley seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of a Co-Chair

Following up on conversation at the last meeting, ED Corr opened up the floor for nominations for a co-chair to serve along with Larry Kim. After a brief discussion, Commission Member Ratliff nominated Commission Member Kuhlman to serve as co-chair, seconded by Commission Member Fraley, and Commission Member Kuhlman was elected in a unanimous vote.

Executive Director's Report

- ED Corr has been participating with the Cambridge Public School (CPS) Department's Working Group on Race, Class, & Microaggressions and described the working group's report back to the Cambridge School Committee in October. ED Corr shared one of the results of that work: a CPS flyer for students and staff on reporting incidents or concerns around these issues. The flyer was created by CPS Program Manager for Diversity Development Ramon De Jesus, as a result of the ongoing work
- ED Corr is planning the 2019 Holocaust Commemoration and has identified a survivor of the Holocaust who may be interested in speaking at the event. ED Corr is waiting to hear back from her. The commemoration will take place at the end of April or early May.
- ED Corr has scheduled the Director of the Disabilities Commission to make a presentation at the meeting in February.
- ED Corr attended the community meeting regarding the death of Paul Wilson and described how it went. Deputy Superintendent Rob Lowe discussed the circumstances and stated CPD is doing everything they can to investigate. Deputy Supt. Lowe explained that CPD did not know if the victim had been targeted or selected at random.

Discussion on MLK Event

- All logistics are set. ED Corr shared the schedule for the Commission members to review and discussed volunteer tasks.
 - Food Pickup: Commission Member Fraley will along with Commission Member Crehan.
 - Greeters: Commission Members Crehan, Joselow, and Seeman
 - Luncheon Set Up: Commission Members Kuhlman, and Fraley
 - Luncheon Clean Up: Commission Members Kuhlman, and Fraley

- ED Corr provided fliers for additional assistance with promoting the event. Commission Member Joselow expressed interest in having more eye-catching design for materials and offered to help with poster design for future events.

Working Groups

Commission Member Seeman stated that he is willing to keep trying new with the working group on Trauma and Resilience, and that the Commission needs to plan time to build other events based on the “giant triplets” of racism, materialism, and poverty that were in MLK’s message. It was noted that it takes six to nine months to implement a new event/program. The Commission asked for there to be time allotted for them to discuss a project that Commission members can organize for the Commission.

Commission Members confirmed that the working group on Partnering with Faith Communities is discontinued because that work is already taking place in other forms.

Unfinished and New Business

- Commission Member Kuhlman asked if the members are allowed under the requirements of the Open Meeting Law to create a Google Doc to help with coordination of outreach efforts for events. ED Corr said it was fine to do so.
- Commission Member Joselow asked how can the members be positive presences in their community? Some suggestions where provided:
 - Mental Health First Aid training – it provides a shared framework of how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis
 - Presence – Simply being a calming and supportive presence at events and community is helpful, such as going to community meetings that occur in response to events, contributing in a way that bring people together. Deputy Supt. Lowe says that when the members of the Commission attend events like the peace walks, their presence is helpful and meaningful to the broader community and to the Police Department. Deputy Supt. Lowe can let the Commission know when there are events where their presence could “ease the tension.”
- There was a conversation about discussing the Commission’s “mission.” Members discussed the value of having a retreat. Other members expressed interest in the Peace Commission being a space for becoming informed.
- Commission Member Atallah asked if Deputy Supt. Lowe could help the Commission understand more about how the Police Department works.
- The Commission decided to hold the retreat before new members are selected to provide new members with a solid understanding about what the Commission does.

Next Steps and Wrap Up

- ED Corr will meet with Co-Chairs Kuhlman and Kim to discuss ideas for a retreat.
- Possible presentations at future meetings: CPD; Ronnie Millar from the Irish International Immigration Center, and ED Corr on trauma and policing.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m., on a motion by Commission Member Joselow, seconded by Commission Member Seeman.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.