

Minutes 1/21/2026

- **Commission members present:** Saffana, Elka, Bonnie, Sarah, Annie, Larry
- **Absent:** Kaza
- **Minute Taker:** Elka
- **Call to order:** Elka called meeting to order, Annie seconded, approved unanimously at 6:06

Agenda:

- Approval of minutes: N/A
- Change in February and March meetings
 - Meetings will be on 2/11 and 3/25
- Commission Vacancies
 - New term of service: Current members should email Saffana if interested in staying on for another term by February 4th. Elka will send out an email with this information
 - We are supposed to have 20 members on the commission. Saffana will consult with Caroline around posting of vacancies. It would be helpful to have members be on the interview panel. Members interested should email Saffana
 - Elka will look for the questions from the last interviews
- Debrief MLK 2026 Commemoration
 - Having choir sing between readings was engaging
 - It was uplifting, joyful, a hopeful event
 - Loved singing dancing to the choir
 - Food good, enough food, table decorations were a nice touch, fruits was appreciated
 - Take out containers- think about whether they help or hinder... maybe hand them out at the end
 - Online feedback forms starting to come in

- member of public in a wheelchair was unable to get into the building – need to check accessibility in future events. A suggestion made was to live stream downstairs for people who wanted to avoid the stairs
 - Having it live streamed was wonderful and it was easy to hear
 - Speaker was well spoken and clear and interesting.
 - Saffana did a great job on both the organizing and speaking side!
- Potential collaborations
 - February:
 - Movie screening of *Border Land – The Line Within* (90 minutes) in collaboration with the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship (CIRC) and the library. Possible date is 2/21. Ideas shared included having a panel to inform the community on ways to take action and/or volunteer, sharing the movie link, and watching only part of the movie to allow time for a panel.
 - Millennium Gospel Choir concert in collaboration with the CPL. possible date February 15th Sunday 2-3:30.
 - Ideas shared: for audience engagement, sing along, teaching a song, sharing some background about the origin of gospel music
 - We need to think about the goal of the gathering and let that lead how we frame the event i.e., are we providing a cultural experience, a concert, a learning experience, a ‘hands on’ experience
 - Community Iftar in collaboration with the Mayor’s office, which needs volunteers. It takes place on February 28th at the Cambridge Street Upper School
 - March:
 - Community Forum with the Human Rights commission and Police department
 - Ideas shared: connecting this with the movie screening, maybe turning the two events into a series, include ‘know your rights’ info and whistles, collaborating with street theory, with all going on with ice right now, should we move the date of the event up, have this event take precedence over the movie
 - Discussion on who is the intended audience

- Sister City Galway delegation visit – might be visiting around st Patrick’s Day. Would be helpful to know the history behind Evacuation Day, which later turned into St. Patrick’s day
- April:
 - Heat Justice with office of Sustainability. Saffana will share their letter with us, which mentions the possibility of our helping with a short video. Sarah is looking into including some parts of this project with her class. Saffana will connect with city person involved in heat justice
- May:
 - Holocaust Remembrance
 - Discussion included length of event, how it is not very kid friendly, more difficult to find speakers, might need to do some tweaks, being sensitive to the importance of certain parts of the service to different community members, Sarah shared someone who might be able to help us think about best ways to protect the history and offered to reach out to her and suggest we meet
 - Saffana will reach out to Tremont Shul to start to coordinate.
- Budget
 - We have about 8,000 to work with. Saffana will be thinking and prepping for the budget hearing in May.

Public Comment – there was no public comments

Next Steps and Adjournment

- Saffana will work on posting the announcement of openings for commission members,
- Members will let Saffana know if they would be willing to be on the interview panel
- Members will email Saffana if they are interested in doing another term by February 4th
- February meeting will focus on the holocaust program
- Anyone who has access to the holocaust program please, share it with Saffana
- Sarah will see about setting up a meeting with Vardit Samuels

- Saffana will mention the idea of faith base training with Carolina/LUCE
- Sarah will send materials she picked up in Chicago.
- Saffana will send the blurb from Heat Justice
- Saffana will connect with Temple Shul and Heidi

Motion for adjournment by Elka, seconded by Sarah, approved by unanimous vote.
Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.