

Meeting Minutes



Date
13 May 2026



Time
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm



Location
795 Massachusetts Ave.



Attendees
11 Person

- Saffana Anwar
- Julie Ayaz
- Annie Brown
- Sarah DeMott
- Pamela Howard
- Larry Kim
- Paul Knott
- Elka Kuhlman
- Karim Razzaz
- Heather Rivera
- Katherine Stevenson

Absent

- Kaza Fraley
- Muna Kangsen
- Karim Razzaz
- Bonnie Talbert

Meeting Title

May 2026: Peace Commission Monthly Meeting

Minute Taker

Sarah DeMott

Agenda

- **Call to order:**
 - Commissioner Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Newly appointed Commissioners introduced themselves and shared their connections to Cambridge, representing a range of neighborhoods and perspectives.
- Lizette, the new Program Manager for the Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI) and the Peace Commission, will begin on June 15, 2026.
- Eliza, an intern with the Peace Commission, will support research related to community outreach.
- The Commission reviewed onboarding topics, including:
 - Meeting procedures, adjournment, and voting
 - Review of the Peace Commission ordinance and scope
 - Overview of Commission activities and signature annual events
 - Surveying Commissioners' availability for events and programming
 - The concept of informal neighborhood liaisons
- Meeting quorum expectations: beginning September 2026, three absences may prompt reconsideration
- Ideal Commission size remains 15 Commissioners plus 2 high school student members



- There was discussion regarding recent Peace Commission appointments made at the May 2026 City Council meeting, as well as clarification about the ordinance's current membership and quorum requirements. Members emphasized the need for increased community outreach to support goal-setting efforts.
- The Commission also discussed outreach for Meet Your Neighbor Week, which spans multiple neighborhoods
- **Holocaust Commemoration Planning:**
 - Members reviewed logistics for the upcoming Holocaust Commemoration, including:
 - Flower pickup; no food will be served
 - Accessibility: ADA-accessible restroom access, temporary pew adjustments, and support from the hosting temple
 - Event safety: hybrid attendance option; private security and subtle police presence
 - Arrival times for Commissioners and participants; ushering responsibilities
 - Reserved seating for clergy, speakers, chorus members, and invited family
 - Run-through of the program with readers and candlelighters
 - Coordination of AV support with the City IT Office
 - Printed program delivery to Tremont Street Shul
 - Parking considerations, including meter coverage near Tremont Street
 - Honoraria for the speaker and chorus; photography by Kyle
 - Additional accessibility support (e.g., ADA portable restroom)
 - A detailed overview of the event program was reviewed, including speakers, readings, candle lighting, musical selections, and closing elements.
- **Public Comment - None**
- **Next Steps:**
 - Next meeting: June 17 (third Wednesday of the month)
 - Focus areas will include planning for Meet Your Neighbor Week in September, outreach research, and upcoming training with Essential Partners in the fall
 - Planning for a Peace Commission retreat (with participation from Lizzette)
 - July and August meetings:
 - No commission meeting in July
 - Potential August meeting - Virtual
- **Adjournment:**
 - Commissioner Kim moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Howard seconded.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.