



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • October 16, 2019

Commission Members Present:

Co-Chair Elka Kuhlman, Co-Chair Larry Kim, David Seeman, April Crehan, and Amelia Joselow, Georges Atallah

City Staff Present:

Executive Director Brian Corr

Call to Order

Co-Chair Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Amelia Joselow moved to approve the May minutes and Commission Member Crehan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Meet Your Neighbor Day:

- Executive Director Corr attended Riverside Trauma Center's annual conference around toxic and traumatic stress in Natick, MA. They do this conference every fall. Executive Director Corr said he would send out the webpage link so we can learn more about the programs and training they offer.

Discussion on Upcoming Year's Focus

What is the Peace Commission? What do we do?

- Co-Chair Kuhlman asked the members how we should follow up on our last discussion around a focus on anti-racism.
- Discussion around making sure that we coordinate with the Citizens Committee on Civic Unity. Executive Director Corr briefly mentioned it at the last meeting and brought up the possibility of working together. The next meeting will be in November.
- Discussion on Cambridge Digs Deep. Executive Director Corr passed out a handout that had a description of this initiative.
- Co-Chair Kuhlman brought up the idea of educating ourselves about the various anti-racism initiatives in the city before we step directly into an initiative.
- Commission Member Joselow mentioned the need for a Social Justice calendar. Discussion happened around why it is difficult to collect this information.

- Commission Member Joselow mentioned that the YWCA has an event tomorrow night about eliminating racism. Executive Director Brian Corr mentioned that YWCA is also focusing on anti-racism.
- Commission Member Joselow mentioned wanting to do an actionable item.
- Co-Chair Kuhlman mentioned wanting to have the commission learn together, i.e. read a book and share what we are learning from the books that we are learning.
- Co-Chair Kim talked about how the Peace Commission has been involved with various events around race in the past, i.e. Trayvon Martin, vigils, etc.
- Co-Chair Kim brought up wanting to engage with issues of race that are immediately close to the commission's expertise, i.e. race and policing because there are various commission members who have knowledge in this area.
- There was a discussion around race and policing and some of the challenges of having an event.
- Commission Member Seeman mentioned a previous idea of doing an event where the commission follows up the MLK event around the triplets (Militarism, materialism, racism)
- Executive Director Corr mentioned the possibility of public showings of a documentary series called "Race: the Power of an Illusion" (three 56-minute episodes). One possibility is to show each episode and have discussion afterwards.

Next Steps on Recruiting New Members

- Executive Director Corr will work on the posting of the vacancy for the City. The Commission is looking to add between 3 and 5 new members.

Unfinished and New Business

Co-Chair Kuhlman will send out reminders regarding upcoming Commission meetings. She also reminded Commission members to watch "Race: the Power of an Illusion" before the next meeting. Exec. Dir. Brian Corr will send out the link where people can watch the film.

Adjournment

Commission Member Joselow moved to adjourn the meeting and Commission Member Crehan seconded. Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:52 pm.

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