



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • May 18, 2016

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair Larry Kim, Co-Chair Frank Connelly, Gladys Friedler, and Georges Atallah.

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr and Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Commission Members Absent: Elechi Kadete, Lijun Li, Aboma Dirbaba, James Eliscar, John Ratliff, and Regina Yang.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

No quorum was present to approve the March meeting minutes.

Executive Director's Report

- Holocaust Commemoration

Overall, there was a good number of attendees. The crowd responded well to the cellist and Mr. Trompetter's narrative. Commissioner Atallah expressed concerns that the event may be too neutral to current events that have implications toward fascism and exclusion. Commissioner Atallah believes the Peace Commission should take a stance that clearly states, "Never again."

- Reykjavik Sister City Initiative

The initiative began with a City Council order during Mayor Maher's term, asking, "that the City Manager, in conjunction with the Director of the Cambridge Peace Commission and other relevant staff, be and is hereby requested to explore a Sister City relationship with the City of Reykjavik, Iceland, in order to foster ties between the municipalities." Cambridge's affordable and socially inclusive housing and issues regarding recycling appeared to be programs that could provide insight to Reykjavik. Currently, Executive Director Corr is determining how to build a sustainable sister city relationship. The questions being considered are: What will it look like? Who would participate? What are the issues?

- "Don't Bank on the Bomb" Campaign

The Commission will discuss this at a future meeting when more Commissioner members are able to attend.

New Business

Future presentations

Confirmed:

- Chandra Banks on Restorative Justice scheduled for June.

Announcements

No meetings for months July and August for the Commission's summer break.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.