



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • Sept. 21, 2016

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair Larry Kim, James Eliscar, Georges Atallah, Elechi Kadete, Aboma Dirbaba, John Ratliff, and Regina Yang.

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr, Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Dep. Supt. Elow.

Commission Members Absent: Co-Chair Frank Connelly, Lijun Li, and Gladys Friedler.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Ratliff moved to approve the June minutes and Commission Member Yang seconded the motion. Unanimous vote reached of Commissioners in attendance at the June meeting. Additionally, Commission Member Ratliff moved to approve the March minutes and Commission Member Yang seconded the motion. Unanimous vote reached of Commissioners in attendance at the March meeting.

Executive Director's Report

- City Manager finalist candidates shared their vision and answer questions at a public forum on Tuesday, September 20, in the Fitzgerald Theater at CRLS. This gave an opportunity for the public to meet the three finalists who are vying to succeed outgoing City Manager Richard C. Rossi.
- On Saturday, September 24, there will be a Boston-area International Day of Peace on Cambridge Common.
- On July 13, Executive Secretary Corr attended the MIT Community Dialogue about Responding to Recent Tragedies on July 13 and participated in facilitator debrief, which is a model for an upcoming NACOLE conference roundtable discussion on policing communities of color while addressing systemic injustices. This forum was planned in response to the Dallas shooting and police involved shooting in Baton Rouge.
- There is a New England Chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution Meeting on Thursday October 21 at MIT.
- Executive Director Corr will send the Commission information about a Cambridge Public Library event: *Karen Frostig & the Vienna Project* for Thursday November 3 at the Karen Frostig. The event centers on topics related to the Holocaust, Black Lives Matter, community development, linked to history and memory.
- Next week, Executive Director Corr will be attending National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement conference as part of his role as Executive Secretary of the Police Review and Advisory Board. Executive Director Corr passed out handouts about his efforts in strategic planning in reference to "peaceful and just communities," which is of interest to the Peace Commission.

New Business

- **Open discussion on the current environment**

Co-Chair Kim opened the discussion by asking the members of the Commission to discuss on what areas of peace are in their hearts. The following topics were referenced, in substance:

- The lasting impact of the election and international peace in response to candidates for President.
- More black men being killed in officer involved shootings.
- The backlash against Muslim communities and fears that it will worsen.
- Criminal offender laws that propose banning if a person can be asked whether they have been convicted of a crime when applying for a job.
- How do we reconcile two sides with peace without destroying the other side?

- **Follow up on “Don’t Bank on the Bomb” presentation**

Commissioner Ratliff has volunteered to work with the students who presented during the February meeting regarding nuclear divestment. Those students went on to speak at a Cambridge City Council hearing and were able to commit council members against the Cambridge Retirement Board’s investment in nuclear related companies. The Council endeavored the Peace Commission to create a forum in reference to nuclear divestment. Commissioner Ratliff also provided the Commission information regarding an upcoming event on Nuclear Weapons Escalation scheduled for Saturday, September 24 at 1 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.