



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • November 16, 2022

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair Larry Kim, Co-Chair Elka Kuhlman, Kaleb Abebe, Annie Brown, Yasmine Hung, Sarah DeMott, Kaza Fraley, David Seeman, Bonnie Talbert

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr. CPD Superintendent Fred Cabral

Call to Order: Co-Chair Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Commission Member Fraley, seconded by Commission Member Abebe, the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

Checking In

- People shared brief personal and professional updates from the last month.

Executive Director's Report

- Exec. Dir. Corr confirmed that the Commission can hold a holiday party in person in lieu of a commission meeting in December, that he would be able to order a main dish for the attendees, and that people could also bring items to share. Commission members Abebe, DeMott, Kuhlman, and Talbert volunteered to serve as an ad-hoc planning committee.
- Exec. Dir. Corr provided brief updates on the 2023 Martin Luther King Day Commemoration:
 - St. Peter's Episcopal Church is prepared to host the commemoration, and after renovations last year the undercroft (basement) is somewhat larger and will be better able to accommodate the community lunch, especially if people are concerned about social distancing.
 - Gail Packer from the Community Dispute and Settlement Center has agreed to be the speaker, and Ex. Dir. Corr met with her in person to discuss the event and her remarks.
 - City Manager Huang will attend and offer brief remarks.
 - Gospel soloist Christina DeVaughn will perform and will also lead the attendees in singing "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."
 - Music directors from most of the Episcopal churches in Cambridge are working to create a joint choir to perform an appropriate choral selection, as in years past.
 - The Middle East Restaurant will provide food for the community lunch at the end of the commemoration, and Commission members Abebe and Fraley volunteered to pick up the food on the day of the event.
- Commission members volunteered for various roles, and all will participate in the event.

Planning for Race: the Power of an Illusion in 2023

- Commission members Brown and Talbert led a training session and discussion to support all Commission members in being able to facilitate small group discussions after attendees watch the film. They created a slideshow based on the using the discussion plan developed two years ago for the original planned screening that was postponed due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commission members felt the training was very thoughtful and

incredibly helpful, and let prepared to play a role during the planned March 30, 2023 screening of *RACE: The Power of an Illusion*.

Next Steps and Wrap Up

- Ex. Dir. Corr will follow up with requests for volunteers to participate in the various parts of the Martin Luther King Day Commemoration including being readers.
- The ad-hoc committee will develop plans for the December holiday party and reach out to everyone.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM on a motion from Commission Member DeMott, seconded by Commission Member Fraley, approved by unanimous vote.

The Peace Commission will not be meeting in December, and the next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2022 via Zoom.