



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • October 19, 2022

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

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr

Call to Order: Co-Chair Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Commission Member DeMott, seconded by Co-Chair Kim, the minutes of the September 21, 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 has confirmed that St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Central Square is available and excited to host the 2023 MLK Day Commemoration as they have in the past, assuming that it can be done in person. He explained that the events built around Riverside Church speech where Dr. King first spoke out publicly in opposition to the Vietnam War and framed his remarks in terms of the "Giant Triplets" – (1) extreme materialism, (2) racism, and (3) militarism – which are still relevant today. Individuals read portions of the speech, the event is interspersed with music, and includes a keynote speaker. After the commemoration, there is a shared meal downstairs. He will be working to secure a speaker, readers for portions of Dr. King's speech, and singers. He noted that on that day there is also a separate community service event coordinated by Many Helping Hands.
- Commission members brainstormed potential speakers and readers for consideration.

Planning for Race: the Power of an Illusion in 2023

- Co-Chairs Kuhlman and Kim and Exec. Dir Corr had met about this after the last Commission meeting and gave an update and Co-Chair Kim shared a suggested timeline and overview:
 - Potential dates for Thursday nights in Spring 2023 were March 2, 23, 30 with the event starting at 6:30 p.m.
 - The Main Library has availability all three nights and Exec. Dir. Corr had tentatively reserved March 30, and that was supported by the Commission members. The Lecture Hall is available at 6 p.m., however the Community Room (for small-group discussions) is not available until 7:30 p.m. because there is income tax filing support in there until 7 pm.
 - Suggested Timeline and Work Plan:
 - 11/16 – Discussion of Contents of Video
 - 12/21 – Commission holiday party
 - 1/18 – Facilitation Training
 - 2/15 – Promotion: Ideas for outreach and publicity

3/15 - Logistics

3/30 – EVENT

- There was a discussion about who would conduct the facilitation training, and Commission members Brown and Talbert are interested and Exec. Dir. Corr is happy to be supportive.
- It was suggested that the small-group facilitators could practice and do run through by using the discussion plan developed two years ago for while the Commission discussed the film at the November meeting.
- Exec. Dir Corr noted that the facilitation training could be held in person, perhaps in lieu of a meeting, and reminded people that working groups can meet as long as they are composed of less than a quorum of the Commission and they are bringing their ideas back to the full Commission for consideration and approval. In response to a question from Co-Chair Kuhlman about the possibility of doing small group work in Zoom breakout rooms during the regular Commission meetings, Exec. Dir. Corr said that he was uncertain and would check into whether that would meet the requirements of the Open Meeting Law.
- We might want to spend some portion of the meetings discussing other things (other events, scheduled ones like Martin Luther King Day and Holocaust Commemoration, as well as other potential issues).

Next Steps and Wrap Up

- Before the next meeting, everyone will each watch Episode 1 of “RACE: The Power of an Illusion”
- Commission members Brown, Seeman, and Talbert and Exec. Dir Corr will make plans to facilitate the film discussion among the Commission members, with a debrief of feelings and of the process.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM on a motion from Commission Member Abebe, seconded by Commission Member Talbert, approved by unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 16, 2022 via Zoom. The Peace Commission will not be meeting in December, and the subsequent meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2022 via Zoom.