



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • April 13, 2022

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

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr

Call to Order: Co-Chair Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Commission Member Talbert, seconded by Commission Member Brown, the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Checking In

- People shared brief reports about their lives and how they were doing.

Executive Director's Report

- Exec. Dir. Corr briefly discussed things he is working on right now, including serving on the committee developing a permanent remote work policy for City staff, and serving on a hiring committee for the Law Department.
- He reported that he is working on putting together a Holocaust commemoration, that will honor the spirit of what has been done while making it simpler because it will be a virtual event on Zoom because of the ongoing pandemic. The possible dates are Wednesday, May 4 or Tuesday, May 5.
- He also reported that he had identified a survivor of the Holocaust, but the individual later declined. A commission member noted that Los Angeles has a very good Holocaust resources, including the Tolerance Museum and USC's Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, and that they may be able to help identify a speaker.

Peace Commission Retreat Reflections and Planning

- Members of the Commission shared reflection on the March portion of the Peace Commission retreat, including how well Commission Members Talbert and Brown facilitated the retreat; being touched by the depth of what was shared and how comfortable and powerful it was to share in an unfiltered way; that some members had never done anything like that and saw the value of it.
- Commission member Talbert appreciated that everyone who was able to attend was fully present and able to be themselves, and noted that it felt like the group could have continued meeting if there had been more time, and looks forward to being able to see everyone in person
- The Commission discussed planning for the May retreat session, with the expectation that it would be in person and could include a light meal. Co-Chair Kuhlman asked Commission members to consider the next session to be a brainstorming session, and Ex. Dir. Corr explained that winnowing ideas and discussion of specific work and actions would occur in a public meeting. Commission members shared general thoughts, with several Commission

members mentioning past work on trauma and healing and how that could be an important focus of the Commission going forward considering the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects.

- For next steps, Ex. Dir. Corr stated that he will ensure there is a light meal, flip charts, pens, markers, post it notes, and information about what the Peace Commission has done in the past. Co-Chairs Kim and Kuhlman will work with Ex. Dir. Corr to create a detailed retreat plan.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM on a motion from Commission Member DeMott, seconded by Commission Member Seeman, approved by unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2022, via Zoom.