



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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### COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.  
Larry W. Ward  
Charles J. Marquardt  
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Lesley Waxman

### BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

#### Minutes of February 1st, 2023

Commissioner Marquardt called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, via zoom. Also present was Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

#### **Roll Call:**

Commissioner King	Present
Commissioner Marquardt	Present
Commissioner Harris	Present
Commissioner Ward	Present

#### **I. Public Comment:**

No Comments

**Motion:** To close public comment

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

#### **Roll Call:**

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

**Passed 4-0**

#### **II. Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes with corrections

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner King

#### **Roll Call:**

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes

Commissioner Ward Yes

**Passed 4-0**

**Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 minutes with corrections

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

**Passed 4-0**

**III. Reports:**

**1. Executive's Director Report – No report, Ms. Ford was absent.**

Commissioner Marquardt congratulated Ms. Waxman on her presentation to the Charter Review Committee, followed by congratulations from the remaining commissioners.

**2. Assistant Director's Report**

**1. 2022 Statement of Financial Interests Update:**

Police Commissioner Bard, and Bonita Cox indicated they have mailed their SFI reports in.

Ms. Waxman reported the School Committee Campaign Financial reports were due on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All have not been turned in and they have been sent a delinquent notice. They have 10 days to respond before being reported to the Office of Campaign Finances.

**3. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Ward reported 219 Elm Street is not a valid address.

Commissioner Marquardt suggested as commissioners we subscribe to Election Online for good election information.

**IV. Action Agenda**

**Old Business –**

**SFI Report** -Covered under the Assistant Director's report.

**2023 Municipal Election Calendar**

Ms. Waxman stated the election calendar will be talked about in a future meeting.

She also stated she emailed Lee Gianetti regarding the voter survey and will follow up with him.

Commissioner Marquardt asked if City Council does not take a vote to not do vote-by-mail, did it mean Cambridge voters will vote by mail. Ms. Waxman stated vote-by-mail is an "opt out"

and our plan is to vote by mail. She stated that in-person early voting must come from the Election Commission's recommendation and then be voted on by the City Council.

She stated there are some problems with doing an unscientific survey and it may not be a good way to plan for the upcoming election. She suggested contacting some of the professors we have helped and ask if a student can help do a survey.

Commissioner Harris stated it is important to urge voter feedback using as many forms of feedback as possible. She will contact Professor Charles Stewart and Professor Rachael Cobb to start a conversation regarding helping to do a survey.

Commissioner Marquardt stated that the materials that were developed by Lee Gianetti from the Public Information Office for the last election could be helpful for the upcoming municipal election. He also stated that we should discuss with Mr. Gianetti ways to reach the ever-growing population of people that do not rely on paper. Commissioner Harris added that we should ask that if the graphics that were developed for the voter guide could be used for the Municipal election as well as the city censuses. Ms. Waxman stated the census will go out in approximately two weeks. We are using a new company.

Commissioner Marquardt mention to invite Lee Gianetti from the Public Information Office to a future meeting to discuss the municipal election.

Commissioner Marquardt mentioned showing appreciation to poll workers by giving them a tee shirt on election day or something to that effect. Commissioner Harris suggested a reception after the election. Also, to initiate thanking our hosts with a letter. Ms. Waxman stated she sends out emails to thank them.

FY '24 Budget – Move to next meeting.

## **New Business**

School Committee Campaign Finance Reports under Assistant Director's Report  
Charter Review Committee Follow-Up

Ms. Waxman will distribute list of brief notes created by Commissioner Harris and we can discuss at the next meeting. She also sent the Charter Review Committee the full chart of the voter turnout for municipal 2020-21 and September and November 2022.

Commissioner Ward stated he appreciated Commissioner's King comment that people must have something to vote for when it was stated by Charter Review Committee member that the Election Commission should look for ways to increase voter turnout.

Ms. Waxman will send out Commissioner's Harris's notes to the commissioners.

Commissioner King asked if Commissioner Harris sent question or comments. He also stated he hoped the Committee would meet with us again before drafting their recommendations for the City Council. Commissioner Ward agreed. Commissioner Harris will draft a thank you note and including the opportunity to meet with us again before making recommendations to the City Council.

Commissioner Marquardt moved by consensus to allowed Mr. Hawkinson to speak. He stated the one decision they have made is to re-write the language of the charter as part of their report. Commissioner Harris wanted clarification that the charter language will be re-written but that does not mean they may not address other issues. Mr. Hawkinson stated she was correct and adding the committee might seek an extension beyond June.

**Next meetings:**

February 15<sup>th</sup>, in person 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 51 Inman Street at 5:30 pm.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner King Yes

Commissioner Marquardt Yes

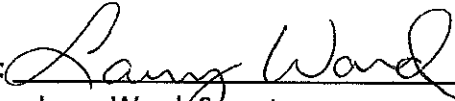
Commissioner Harris Yes

Commissioner Ward Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

A True Record

Attested by:

  
Larry Ward, Secretary