



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 January 19th, 2023

Commissioner Marquardt called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm on January 19th, 2023, by 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:

Mr. Hawkinson mentioned the Charter Review Committee is interested in general information from the Election Commission.

Motion: To close public comment

Move: 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 4th, 2022 minutes with corrections

Move: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner King

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, Executive Director, Ms. Ford was absent.

2. Assistant Director's Report

1. 2022 Statement of Financial Interests Update:

Three remaining officials have not yet filed, former Police Commissioner Bard, Matina Williams who indicated she will bring her SFI in person, and Bonita Cox who indicated she will mail her SFI in.

Commissioner Marquardt stated he has sent two messages on Facebook to Police Commissioner Bard and was told he would get back to him soon.

Commissioner Marquardt asked if the charter review committee fall under the SFI filling. Ms. Waxman reported that the City Manager's office and the law department provide a list of who fall under SFI filling.

2. School Committee Campaign Finance Reports are due January 20, 2023. Ms. Waxman has received four reports.

3. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Harris stated she reached out to Anthony Wilson and was glad to see he completed his SFI report.

Commissioner Marquardt cited several changes from various cities regarding election procedures for the upcoming spring elections and suggested we put on the calendar to discuss election procedures for the November election.

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business -SFI Report-Voter Registration Challenge Scheduling

Voter challenge will be held in person with Commissioner Harris recusing herself. The meeting will be on the second floor at 51 Inman Street. Ms. Waxman will notify all parties on February 2nd, 2023.

Commissioner King asked if it would be permissible to allow someone to vote if their residence was 90% in a different city. Ms. Waxman responded it is based on where they sleep'.

New Business

Budget talk will be deferred until the Executive Director is back.

Commissioner Marquardt suggested the commission do a non-scientific survey to gather information as to how people plan on voting.

Commissioner Harris agreed and added the survey should ask how they voted last time. This would have implication regarding election worker staffing.

She also asked Ms. Waxman if commissioners should come with a list of questions regarding budgetary items for the budget conversation. Ms. Waxman responded that would be fine.

Commissioner Harris asked for feedback from commissioners regarding the last election to be forwarded to her by January 27th.

Commissioner King suggested we put the voting booths on the agenda for the budget. He strongly suggested we look at replacing all voting booths before the next election.

He also suggested we need a better system for separating dual precincts to prevent ballots from going into the wrong ballot boxes.

Commissioner Marquardt stated we can start anticipating how many questions can be on a ballot. Ms. Waxman noted that we can have an 18" long ballot and we could talk about the cost of longer ballots.

Commissioner King suggested we look at optimizing the software to scan ballots faster. Ms. Waxman stated the software can't be optimized. She stated we could have the early voting ballots be done at a central tabulation center and only have in-person ballots casted at the polls.

Commissioner Marquardt asked if Ms. Waxman can ask Mike Carlson and Jeff Slyvestro of LHS Associates. what would happen if we had three or four ballot sheets other than ballots taking longer to processing.

Commissioner Marquardt has requested a list of questions from the Charter Review Committee to be better prepared before appearing in front of the committee and has not heard back yet. The plan is for two commissioners (one from each party), to attend the meeting. The meeting will take place on zoom.

Commissioner Harris asked if commissioners attend as the "public" can they ask questions?

Commissioner Ward asked if we could have a meeting at the same time to be participants.

Ms. Waxman suggested if all commissioners want to attend, we will schedule a meeting to occur simultaneously to avoid any conflicts with the open meeting laws.

2023 Municipal Election Calendar

Ms. Waxman presented a draft 2023 Municipal Election Calendar stating we can wait to vote on adoption at a later meeting.

Ms. Waxman pointed out to make it clear for the public, the commission office will put the vote-by-mail deadlines with an explanation that post cards will be mailed later with the census information.

Commissioner King asked if the census could be combined with the vote-by-mail request. Ms. Waxman stated too many people will complete it without reading carefully thus creating unnecessary vote by mail request.

Ms. Waxman asked if the "in-person early voting hours" language is acceptable. Commissioners agreed it was fine.

Next meetings:

February 1st, 5:30, via zoom.

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

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:46 pm

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

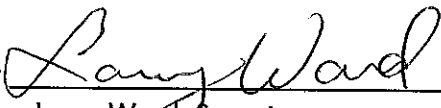
Seconded: Commissioner King

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