



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-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of May 5, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm on May 5, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Present
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Present
Commissioner Ethridge King	Absent
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Present

Commissioner King joined the meeting at 5:33 pm.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

There was no public comment provided.

The Chair closed public comment.

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of April 21, 2021 with correction.

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward	Yea
Commissioner Harris	Yea
Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
Passed:	4—0

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

No report.

2. Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Waxman made the following report:

a. Statement of Financial Interests

Statement of Financial Interests packets were mailed out on May 3rd to 154 Municipal Officials.

SFI forms are due back on June 1st

- b. Cambridge Housing Authority Polling Locations
 - i. CHA locations that we used in 2020 are set: Millers River, Pisani Center and LBJ (Millers River is still under construction but the temporary community room that we used in 2020 is still available)
 - ii. Putnam Gardens, Woodrow Wilson, Corcoran Park and Russell Apartments are on standby if we need them – these are all locations that do not have enough space for social distancing, so we did not use them in 2020
 - iii. The community room at Burns apartments will be ready for the 2021 election so we will need look at it to see if it will work
 - iv. Truman Apartments is currently under construction and won't be complete until early 2022

c. Re-precincting Update (R-2)

The state is setting up individual workshops with each municipality to get started on a simulation map based on 2020 census estimates. The Cambridge GIS department is in the process of scheduling an appointment for Cambridge, likely in early June.

Ms. Waxman will see if GIS is available for one of the Commission's upcoming meetings to discuss the process for re-precincting.

d. Outstanding City Employee Award

Ms. Waxman informed the Commissioners that Catiria Cotto-Morales had been named an Outstanding City Employee.

The Commissioners shared their congratulations for the award and noted that it was well deserved for all the work that the team did during the pandemic elections of 2020.

Ms. Waxman said she would forward the Zoom link for the award ceremony to the Commissioners.

3. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Harris reported that she had virtually attended the Joint Committee on Redistricting on May 4th. The meeting was focused on Massachusetts' 5th Congressional District. Commissioner Harris indicated that there was some concern raised regarding the effectiveness of the Census count in the district.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Coordination/Communication with City Council Regarding Proposed Legislative Changes for the 2021 Municipal Election

Commissioner Marquardt stated that he had spoken with Executive Director Ford-Crump and was going to draft a memo to the City Manager regarding the changes made for elections as a result of the pandemic in 2020 and potential legislative action to make some of the changes permanent and the impacts any legislative action could have on the 2021 Municipal Election.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that the Boston City Council had collaborated with the Boston Election Commission and the Secretary of State to draft election related home rule petitions that are being considered by the Boston City Council.

Commissioner Marquardt agreed to forward a story describing the proposed Boston home rule petitions in more detail.

Polling Locations

Ms. Waxman asked the Commissioners for feedback regarding their polling locations and potential availability for the Municipal Election.

Commissioner Marquardt stated that requirements at Spaulding and Cambridge Rehabilitation would make those sites not useable for the Municipal Election.

Commissioner Marquardt also stated that he has some difficulty reaching people at the sites, especially when there has been turnover and a new person is in the role, because the recipients of his email are confused by the lack of a cambridgema.gov address.

After discussion about email addresses, Ms. Waxman said she would look into cambridgema.gov addresses for the Commissioners.

New Business

Budget Hearings

Commissioner Marquardt reported that Budget Hearings were scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th starting at 9:00 am. Commissioners Ward and King stated that they would be available in the event the Election Commission budget was pulled for discussion. Commissioner King stated that he would need someone to stand in for him between 10:00 and 11:00 am as he had a conflict. Commissioner Marquardt said he would be available.

Building and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting

Commissioner Marquardt reported that there was a Building and Grounds Subcommittee meeting scheduled for May 12th at 5:30 pm which included an agenda item with regard to the Election Commission's request to use certain schools as polling locations. Commissioners Ward and King stated that they would attend.

The next meetings of the Commission are scheduled for May 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm and June 2, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm
Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward	Yea
Commissioner Harris	Yea
Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
Passed:	4—0

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Charles Marquardt, Secretary