



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 January 13, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm on January 13, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

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

Also present were Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

I: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of December 16, 2020 with correction to formatting.

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call

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

II: Reports

1. Executive Director's Report (R1)

Policy Order - "I Voted" Stickers

Ms. Ford-Crump reviewed the attached draft policy order sent by Mayor Siddiqui. Ms. Ford-Crump has already communicated with the Mayor regarding a variety of issues, including funding of the initiative, and having a virtual sticker available depending on whether the City will allow physical stickers to be distributed given the state of the pandemic.

Commissioner Harris stated that the sticker initiative might also be an opportunity to educate the public regarding Proportional Representation (PR) voting that will be used in the 2021 municipal election. Ms. Ford-Crump advised that in taking on any projects for the year the Commission keeps in mind the re-precincting process, which will require much of the Commission's time.

Commissioner Ward said that he liked the idea of choosing the sticker using PR voting, and that the Commission should be in charge of the process.

Ms. Ford-Crump asked the commissioners to forward their feedback to her by Friday, January 15.

The group discussed the use of Cambridge Public Schools as precinct locations for future elections. The Commission will approach the School Committee to schedule a meeting with the Committee's Building

and Grounds subcommittee to discuss the matter further.

Ms. Ford-Crump also announced that she had asked for IT staff support for the re-precincting process. The group inquired about the timeline for re-precincting; the State will be issuing information in the coming months.

2. Assistant Director's Report (R2)

SFI Report

Ms. Waxman reviewed the attached SFI report, noting that the only report not yet received is from William Barry, who has moved out-of-state, and who served in a volunteer capacity.

Commissioner King asked what could be done to bring resolution to any outstanding reports. Ms. Waxman responded that she can contact the City's Law Department regarding next steps.

Year-End Campaign Finance Reports

Ms. Waxman reported that the deadline for this year's School Committee reports will be January 20, 2021. A few reports have already been submitted. Candidates will need to send information via email or through the postal service since City offices are currently closed to the public.

Vote-By-Mail Legislation.

Ms. Waxman updated the group that legislation passed in July 2020 to address the pandemic expired at the end of the calendar year, but that provisions have been extended for any elections occurring on or before March 31, 2021. There may not be any updates until later in the year, and may be made closer to election deadlines.

The group discussed the status of Cambridge's home-rule petition regarding early voting for municipal elections, and feedback from the State regarding early and mail-in voting.

3. Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner Harris stated that she would be attending the Boston/Cambridge Election Science Working Group meeting on 1/14/21 regarding universal voting.

III. Public Comment

John Hawkinson stated that as of January 11, 2021 the Department of Commerce estimated that they will be releasing census data as of March 6, 2021. He also noted this information in the chat feature.

Valerie Bonds provided testimony regarding her sister's experience voting this year, and asked what accommodations are available for people who have vision challenges. Her sister is legally blind, and Ms. Bonds recounted that she accompanied her sister to the polls at the Longfellow School [for early voting], and that they were told by supervisors at the site that no accommodations were available for her to vote independently. Her sister was able to complete a ballot with Ms. Bonds' assistance.

Commissioner Ward, who was supervising the Longfellow site, stated that he will contact his workers at that site and review the situation with them, and will follow up with Ms. Bonds.

The group discussed the use of Automark machines, and whether there is newer equipment available for persons with disabilities.

Motion: To close public comment.

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Roll Call

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

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business
2020 Election Review

Commissioner Harris will forward a draft report from the warden and clerk debrief sessions.

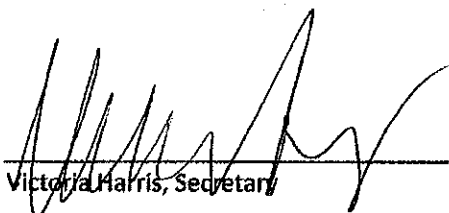
The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for January 27, 2021 at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 3:47 pm
Moved: Commissioner King
Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Roll Call

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

A True Record

Attested by: 
Victoria Harris, Secretary