



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.
Polyxane S. Cobb
Larry W. Ward
Charles J. Marquardt

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of July 20, 2017

The meeting of the Cambridge Election Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Election Commission office at 51 Inman Street. Present were Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Ethridge King, Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Polyxane Cobb, Executive Director Tanya Ford, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman, and members of the public, Ethan Cobb, John Hawkinson and Robert Winters.

I: MINUTES

The Minutes of July 12, 2017 were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of July 12, 2017 with corrections.

Moved: Commissioner Cobb

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

The Motion passed: 4-0

II: REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ford stressed that nomination papers will be accepted until 5:00pm on July 31st. As the 31st is a Monday the office will be open until 8:00pm, but no nomination papers will be accepted after 5:00pm regardless.

Ms. Ford informed the Commissioners that the Election Commission had received a petition for a Non-Binding Public Opinion Advisory Question for the upcoming Municipal Election. The question language is as follows:

Many Cantabrigians have expressed concern over what they perceive to be the undue influence of a few wealthy donors and special interest groups on municipal elections. Such concerns have the potential to erode the people's confidence in their elected officials and reduce civic engagement, thereby undermining the objectives of responsible government. In response to similar concerns, cities as diverse as Los Angeles, New York City, Portland (OR), Seattle, and New Haven have provided for the complete or partial funding of electoral campaigns. Although they typically require only a tiny fraction of a city's budget, these public-financing programs have nevertheless been shown to result in a more vibrant and democratic process. Would you be in favor of the City of Cambridge adopting such a program for elections to the City Council?

Ms. Ford then discussed the process that the petition goes through from presentation to the City Council to various alternatives based on the outcome of the City Council consideration. The petition/question will be presented to the City Council at their next meeting to be held on Monday, August 7, 2017.

Question may be placed on the ballot by vote of the City Council at least ninety days before the election. If the City Council does not vote to approve putting the questions on the ballot, the question may be placed on the ballot by the petitioners obtaining additional signatures. The petition must be signed by at least 10% of the voters of Cambridge and submitted to the Board of Registrars at least 43 days before the election. The Registrars have seven (7) days from receipt of the petition to certify signatures. The question may be placed on the ballot at least thirty-five (35) days before the election.

Ms. Ford stressed the impact that this question could have on the office and the staff based on how it proceeds through the process.

The Commissioners reviewed the signatures received for the petition for the Non-Binding Public Opinion Advisory Question.

Motion: To certify 22 signatures received in connection with the petition for the Non-Binding Public Opinion Advisory Question.
Moved: Commissioner Cobb
Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt
The Motion passed: 4-0

Ms. Ford informed the Commissioners that the petition would be presented to the City Council at their next scheduled meeting on August 7th. Ms. Ford said that she would be at the Council meeting should any questions arise. Commissioners King and Ward also stated that they would attend the Council meeting.

The Commissioners then reviewed signatures and nomination papers submitted by those seeking to become a candidate for City Council.

Motion: To certify the signatures on the attached City Council listing.
Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner Cobb
The Motion passed: 4-0

The Commissioners then reviewed signatures and nomination papers submitted by those seeking to become a candidate for School Committee.

Motion: To certify the signatures on the attached School Committee listing.
Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner Cobb
The Motion passed: 4-0

Assistant Director's Report

Statements of Financial Interest – The list of delinquent filers is down to 4. A memo will be sent to the City Manager informing him of the people who have yet to file. Candidates are required to file by July 31st so we will wait until then to send letters and set hearing dates.

Election Worker Recruitment – Wednesday, August 16th at 6 pm at the Citywide Senior Center. Flyers and posters are available for the Commissioners to post where appropriate.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Marquardt reported that 303 Sidney Street is NOT a valid address.

III: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hawkinson requested if he could take a picture of the wording for the Non-Binding Public Opinion Advisory Question. Ms. Ford agreed, with the provision that the names of the signers would be blocked for the photo. Copies of the petition, signatures included, would be available when the office opens on Friday.

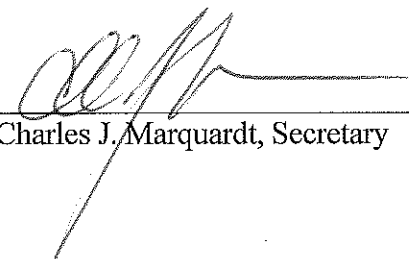
IV: ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Municipal Election, November 7th

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.
Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner Cobb
The Motion passed: 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: 
Charles J. Marquardt, Secretary