



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 April 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM on April 17, 2024, via Zoom, by the Chair, Commissioner Harris. Present were the Chair, Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Ethridge King, Executive Director Tanya Ford, and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

Roll Call:

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

The Chair announced that the City Manager re-appointed Commissioner Ward for another four-year term.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mello made a public comment.

Motion: To close Public Comment.

Moved by Commissioner Harris
Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris: Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward: Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt: Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King: Yes

Passed 4-0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of March 28, 2024, with corrections.

Moved by Commissioner Harris
Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris: Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward: Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt: Yes

Commissioner Ethridge King: Yes

Passed 4-0

Motion: To approve the Minutes of March 28, 2024, with corrections.

Moved by Commissioner Harris
Seconded by Commissioner Ward

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris: Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward: Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt: Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King: Yes

Passed 4-0

Organizational Meeting, Officer Selection

The Chair announced that the officers selected today will not begin in their respective rolls until the next meeting.

Nominations for Chair

Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Ethridge King for Chair
Hearing no others
Commissioner Ward seconded

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris: Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward: Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt: Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King: Yes

Passed 4-0

Nominations for Vice Chair

Commissioner King nominated Commissioner Charles Marquardt for Vice Chair
Hearing no others
Commissioner Ward seconded

Roll Call

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris: Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward: Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt: Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King: Yes

Passed 4-0

Nominations for Secretary

Commissioner Ward nominated Commissioner Victoria Harris for Secretary
Hearing no others
Commissioner King seconded

Roll Call

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris:	Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward:	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt:	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King:	Yes

Passed 4-0

Nominations for Vice Secretary

Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Larry Ward for Vice Secretary
Hearing no others
Commissioner King seconded

Roll Call

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris:	Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward:	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt:	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King:	Yes

Passed 4-0

III. Reports

1. Executive Director's Report

None given.

2. Assistant Director's Report

Assistant Director Waxman gave an update on the status of the Campaign Finance Report non-filers. All current members had filed their reports. Campaign committees that are still open that have not filed were sent Notice of Failure to File letters on April 4, 2024—they have ten business days to file. Thus far she has heard back from Dario Johnson, and she received a dissolution report from former School Committee member Kathleen Kelley.

3. Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner King reported that 16 Rutland Street is a valid address.

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

March 5, 2024, Election Debrief

Commissioner Harris led a discussion on the feedback received from Poll Workers regarding the use of Poll Pads for voter check-ins on Election Day. The advantages and disadvantages of utilizing Poll Pads were examined. Another significant point of discussion was the establishment of a portal for individuals interested in working during elections. Additionally, the idea of creating a dedicated student link to engage students in poll worker opportunities was also mentioned.

Commissioner Marquardt inquired about the possibility of reducing the weight of ballot carriers to facilitate easier transportation on Election Day.

The question was raised by Commissioner Harris regarding whether the Commissioners should personally deliver the Poll Pads and the ballot scanners to their designated locations.

Commissioner Ward raised concerns about the logistical feasibility of delivering scanners to all precincts by 6 a.m. on Election Day.

Commissioner Harris will be sharing links for the municipalities she looked into.

V. New Business

Assistant Director Waxman inquired about firming up the inclusion of 7-3 at the CRLS location.

Assistant Director Waxman will provide us with the contact information for the CRLS point person.

Executive Director Ford proposed that the Board begin to think about Early Voting locations for the upcoming September 3, 2024, primary election.

The Executive Director highlighted the necessity of addressing police coverage for polling locations which will need to be approved by the City Council meeting, emphasizing the importance of initiating planning early.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:18 PM.

Moved by Commissioner Harris
Seconded by Commissioner Ward

Roll Call:

Commissioner Victoria Harris: Yes
Commissioner Larry Ward: Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt: Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King: Yes

Passed: 4—0

A True Record

Attested by: 
Ethridge A. King, Secretary