



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Regular Meeting of April 4, 2018

Commission Members Present: Georges Atallah, April Crehan, Kaza Fraley, Gaby Friedler, Amelia Joselow, Elka Kuhlman, John Ratliff, David Seeman, and Regina Yang.

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr and CPD Deputy Superintendent Robert Lowe

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Joselow moved to approve the February minutes and Commission Member Crehan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Introductions

Members introduced themselves. Commission Member Kuhlman agreed to take notes in the future when Project Coordinator/Office Manager Crystal Rosa is unable to attend due to work conflicts.

Executive Director's Report

General Updates

- ED Corr was a co-presenter for a workshop on the role of fathers in preventing domestic and gender-based violence at the New England Fathering Conference in Springfield March 15 on behalf of Mending Cambridge
- ED Corr will be presenting a workshop on how local government and faith communities can work together to the Boston Interfaith Leadership Initiative (BILI) on April 10.
- Civic Unity is very interested
- October 17 Implicit Bias event with Prof. Mahzarin Banaji of Project Implicit

Holocaust Commemoration

ED Corr reported on the plans for this year's Holocaust Commemoration scheduled for Thursday, May 3. ED Corr met with this year's speaker, Norman Berman, who is a child of Holocaust survivors. Mr. Berman was born in a refugee camp established in Germany in the aftermath of World War II. ED Corr will reach out regarding volunteer roles Commission members can participate in at the event.

Speaker at May Peace Commission

Nancy Rihan-Porter will present at next month's meeting about her work with the city on addressing Mental Health issues and on training people how to intervene appropriately when mental health is an issue.

Possible work with Civic Unity Committee

The Citizens Committee on Civic Unity committee has expressed interest in working with the Peace Commission on a number of events and activities coming up. One which the commission has already begun working on, Meet Your Neighbor Day is a natural event connecting the work of both groups. Other possible joint activities include supporting an event on implicit bias with Prof. Mahzarin Banaji (the author of the book *Blind Spot: The Hidden Biases of Good People*), tentatively scheduled for October 17 and joining the committee in a second annual Loving Day on June 12, commemorating the historic legal decision in *Loving v. Virginia*.

Working Groups

The working groups the Commission previously formed meet to discuss their work. The working groups met, and then came back together to report to the full Commission:

- Commission Member Crehan reported on the Meet Your Neighbor Day working group, which plans to meet again before the next meeting and to work with the Citizens Committee on Civic Unity and others. The work group will work on possible collaborators and literature about the day. The working group suggested the outreach material should be in Cambridge's prominent languages. Commission Member Atallah offered to help with Arabic and French translations if needed. ED Corr explained that City and School Department already have a list of the languages needed.
- Commission Member Seeman reported on the Trauma and Resiliency working group he participated in, which generated ideas for possible programs, including utilizing films to reach community. Possible subjects of the film and discussion could be gun violence or bullying. The working group is exploring having a series of films with discussion after each show. It also discussed how to use Mental Health First Aid training for Commission members to be able to play a supportive role when there are community gatherings in response to traumatic events that occur in other places but have an impact in Cambridge.
- Commission Member Kuhlman reported on the Interfaith Partnering work group. She stated that she thought about attending a meeting of an existing group to see what was being done and how Peace Commission might augment or support those efforts. The working group felt that the next step would be to gather more information and understand what needs there might be.

Announcement

The Poor People's Campaign Boston-area launch will take place in SEIU 1199 union hall in Quincy this week.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.