



**EVENTS, EXHIBITS, AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

JANUARY 16, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Suzanne Taylor, Nat Sheidley, Karin Goodfellow, Dr. Noelle Trent, Kyera Singleton, Juan Eusebio

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Juan Lopez, Eric Hanson-Plass, Faries Gray, Dave O'Donnell, Jay Ash, Celia Richa, Sam Tully-Chambers, John Borders IV, Imari Jeffries

STAFF PRESENT: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Amy Yandle, Director of Special Events

PUBLIC/PRESS PRESENT:

A full recording of the meeting is available on boston.gov/commemoration-commission

SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Genesis Pimentel welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting minutes were approved.

III. BIG PICTURE PLANNING

- a. Genesis Pimentel asked to discuss how the subcommittee might approach the creation of trails, the outreach for trails, and creating structures and criteria for submissions.
- b. Commissioner Nat Sheidley stated it might be easier to think through how to respond to community members who want to see a site recognized and then set criteria for the Commission, subcommittee, and City's role in the process. He added that questions must be asked: how can an applicant research? What material will be provided by the City? Who will vet it? How will a selection process be built? He also stated that there is a need to give shape for an amount of new trails that will not be overwhelming and to work with community stakeholders.
- c. Chair Suzanne Taylor stated that the focus can be on neighborhood trails, work with Main Streets and historical societies, and trails can be self-guided.



- i. Commissioner Sheidley added that the process needs to be mindful of the dissonances between neighborhood residents and allow for multiple lines of communication.
- d. Commissioner Kyera Singleton asked if we could ask historical societies to do better outreach with their communities. She added that the Mass Cultural Council has cultural standards and a template for supporting programs. She stated that this template might be useful to adopt with the subcommittee's ideas, so that people align with criteria to receive funding.
- e. Commissioner Sheidley stated that it might be better to solicit proposals under the umbrella of the 400th due to the amount of work these projects will take. He added that City and staff issues need to be addressed: What can the City offer to those who want to bring something forward? Who will cover the cost of creating and mounting markers? Will communities have to fundraise? Will there be marketing and how will visibility exist for trails? He added that this submission process should live in Historic Preservation.
- f. Chair Taylor stated that this initiative might be a collaboration with multiple departments, City Council, and more for it to be a citywide initiative. She added that consideration should be given to if and how plaques are erected for important sites that no longer exist.
 - i. Commissioner Sheidley stated that there could be photographs on the plaques, but that this would require research support, connections with universities, and opportunities for internships and practicums.
 - ii. Commissioner Singleton asked how useful are plaques as they exist currently. She added that this discussion and marker program can be a time to reimagine what plaques are and what they look like.

IV. 6 MONTH REPORT

- a. Genesis Pimentel reviewed and discussed the 6 month report.
- b. Commissioner Sheidley stated that there should be discussion of City partnerships. He also stated that each plaque might cost thousands of dollars, so there is a need to identify partner entities and figure out how the City can support, especially with certain costs associated with road closure and other items the City oversees for events.
 - i. Amy Yandle added that Boston hosts small events because Boston has capacity considerations, but that the idea of helping with permitting processes and with absorbing the costs of some of these permits is being considered.
 - ii. Commissioner Sheidley stated the MFA is working on an exhibition that will be their 250th contribution, so we should get in dialogue with them. Yandle stated that once there is a Boston website and calendar for commemorative events, those events can be promoted.



- iii. Chair Taylor added that Boston Public Schools is creating their 250th curricula and needs funding, so we should figure out a way to gather all entities focusing on the 250th.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There were no public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 3:00 PM

- a. The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT