



**COMMEMORATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

JANUARY 23, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Amanda Zettel, Angela Hedley-Mitchell, Carolyn Goldstein, Cedric Woods, Chelsea Blanchard, Collin Knight, Dave O'Donnell, Dory Klein, Giordana Mecagni, Imari K. Jeffries, Jean-Luc Pierite, Joan Ilacqua, Joe Bagley, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Karin Goodfellow, Kathy Kottaridis, Kristen Lafferty, Lydia Lowe, Margaret Dyson, Nat Sheidley, Noelle Trent, Suzanne Taylor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Liza Stearns, Senator Mike Rush, Juan Lopez, Juan Eusebio, Jay Ash, Lynn Smiledge, Eric Hanson-Plass, Celia Richa, Bob Allison, Faries Gray, John Borders IV, Kimberly Barzola, Michael Creasey, Kyera Singleton, Tatiana M.F. Cruz, Rebecca Tomasovic, Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Sam Tully-Chambers, David Leonard

STAFF PRESENT: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Alex Meadow, Deputy Director of Partnerships; Candace Nguyen, EEOS Executive Assistant; Lauryn Sharp, Project Archaeologist; Kayla Skillin, Archivist for Collections Management

Press: Alison Pultinas, Fenway News

Public: Ester Farah, Embrace Boston; Matthew Dickey, Boston Preservation Alliance

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

SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Chairs Amanda Zettel and Jean-Luc Pierite welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of meeting minutes was held off until the next meeting.
- b. Subcommittees gave updates.
 - i. Legislation and Preservation Tools discussed their conversations around Article 85 Reform and a historic and cultural resource survey.
 - ii. Timelines, Archives, and Curricula discussed timeline development, conversations with MHS and BPS around curricular support and needs, as well as building out a way to compile archival institutions.
 - iii. Events, Exhibits, and Trails discussed their conversations around markers and neighborhood trails.



III. POLICY MEMO FOR ORDINANCE UPDATE

- a. Commissioner and Director of Historic Preservation Kathy Kottaridis explained that the policy memo making recommendations to City Council for a change in the ordinance of the Commemoration Commission was worked on and submitted by Councilor Coletta Zapata. She added that Councilor Coletta Zapata will bring the memo forward for discussion and then, hopefully, a vote to amend as has been proposed and reviewed by the Commissioners.

IV. CITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 250 UPDATE & DISCUSSION

- a. Alex Meadow, the Deputy Director for Partnerships, returned to give an update on the City of Boston's vision for the 250th after internal multi-departmental conversations and asked for commission feedback.
 - i. This included discussing the launch of Boston250 aimed for Patriots' Day weekend to align with Paul Revere Ride and the Boston Marathon as well as the 1965 60th anniversary Freedom Rally event on April 26.
 - ii. There was an update on how the City will look for funding and the finalizing of the Boston 250 brand guidelines.
 - 1. Commissioner Noelle Trent advised that the City and its brand team consider the images being used in the background since it could communicate exclusionary ideas about the City's aim for commemoration.
 - 2. Many commissioners cautioned against using the word celebration or celebratory and to really drive home commemoration because these ideas and events being explored have both harmful and forward-thinking ideologies.

V. 6 MONTH REPORT

- a. Genesis Pimentel reviewed the 6 month report, focusing on the Goals & Needs section. This section was expanded to include goals, interdepartmental collaboration necessary for the goals to move forward, and the needs each goal has in order for barriers to success to be removed.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION: HISTORICAL MARKERS

- a. Commissioner Kottaridis mentioned that the commissioners as well as funders have identified markers as a tool of commemoration that is useful. She added that one tactical output for the Commission is to start making a concrete strategy for a markers program.
- b. Commissioner Karin Goodfellow discussed the Public Art Map and how some questions around markers include when plaques are reviewed and when Arts & Culture have care and custody of them. She added that generally, MOAC has



custody of markers and plaques when they are above a certain size and on City property.

- c. Commissioner Sheidley discussed when The Bostonian Society had a marker program, it had an official partnership with the Boston Landmarks Commission, so there was an advisory body and a pipeline for property owners and community members to propose locations for marking. He added that the most valuable thing for a marker program is consistency.
- d. Commissioners recommended looking at PA250, VA250, and other locations to see if they have existing models.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Alison Pultinas commented that there is a potential for rich conversation in discussing the difference between marking existing buildings versus marking what once stood on a site because those are different commemorations.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - 4:00 PM

- a. The meeting ended at 4:00.