



TIMELINES, ARCHIVES, AND CURRICULA SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

MARCH 6, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Joe Bagley, Giordana Mecagni, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Kristen Lafferty, Dory Klein, Joan Ilacqua, Bob Allison

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Liza Stearns, Collin Knight, Kimberly Barzola, David Leonard, Tatiana Cruz, Cedric Woods, Carolyn Goldstein, Angela Hedley-Mitchell

STAFF PRESENT: Kayla Skillin, Archivist for Collections Management

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

SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Chair Joe Bagley welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting minutes discussion was held off until later.

III. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

- a. Genesis Pimentel explained that the reason for this discussion is to have more concrete recommendations written out for the Mayor's Office regarding 250th projects.
- b. Kathy Kottaridis added that the recommendations for the activities that should be prioritized will drive the fundraising efforts of the administration.
- c. Chair Joe Bagley stated that one of the challenges the commissioners have come across is that they've been structuring their efforts based on a system of no funding, so there has not been any conversation around what funded activities look like. He added that the feedback being heard from the City is to focus on events that are very specific to the 250th and the 400th even with the desire to be inclusive.
 - i. Kottaridis asked if there is something concrete coming out of the alternative and inclusive trajectory of Boston's history that the Commission might arrive at as a set of recommendations.



- ii. Chair Bagley stated that the two things that were shaping up were discussions around signage and trails, but that would be difficult as a subcommittee project since it would be a lot of background research to support the ideas and that every City event be part of the Boston 250 and 400 brand.
- iii. Commissioner Dory Klein discussed the Database project. The target audience is BPL patrons broadly, but it can be used by teachers though it does not have capacity to incorporate curricular units.
- iv. Chair Bagley stated that the main goal of the subcommittee was to raise awareness of what archives and history holders have.
 - 1. Commissioner Klein stated this included funding for other elements and a survey of history holders.
 - 2. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni added that conversations also included mapping history holders.
- d. Kottaridis discussed that the Mayor's Office is targeting specific roll out dates when they talk to foundations about the needs of the City and resources for events and other commemorative actions. She added that there is a need for a more high-level tactical approach to advancing a menu of options.
- e. Chair Bagley stated there is value for the Commission to clarify what it means when discussing the 250th commemoration and the 400th, and then ask community organizations to come with ideas.
- f. Kottaridis asked what direction the Commission and subcommittee wished to go in. She asked if it should be the vetting entity for other people's ideas. She asked for clarification on what else the group would work on.
- g. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni discussed the Digitization Project going through City Council as a similar project of interest to this group. She added that many grants require significant infrastructure. If the subcommittee got funding, the group could steer a pool of larger or smaller grants and decide who gets them, which could include a digitization grant and grants for oral history training.
- h. Commissioner Joan Ilacqua stated that smaller archives could use grants.
- i. Commissioner Klein discussed that the Community History department at the Library is getting questions about grant funding to digitize their family papers and photographs and how people can tie this project into something presentable and sustainable as a web based project from both individuals and institutions.
- j. Kottaridis stated that if there were 50 individual objectives packaged appropriately, multiple donors might invest, and it could be a la carte. She stated that it seemed like this group wanted to play a role as an aggregator and



re-grantor. This includes needing priorities and standards, but these criteria won't get developed until there is a fund. She added the next step is developing a pitch for funders that answers the questions of why they chose the themes of funding and why funders should want to invest.

- k. Commissioner Mecagni suggested convening different historical institutions to support the sharing of ideas between institutions citywide. She suggested that some listening sessions would be helpful for the City to do. She added that the City will support existing projects, but these projects exist because they have the resources; there should be an effort to support the people, places, and institutions that don't have those resources
- l. Kottaridis discussed the Boston 200 Birthday Book, which allowed citizens and interested parties to make a donation or contribution to the 200th as a birthday gift, and this could be reimagined with a menu of the options for gifts.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There was no public comment.

V. ADJOURNMENT - 3:15 PM

- a. The meeting was adjourned.