



**TIMELINES, ARCHIVES, AND CURRICULA SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

MAY 15, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Joe Bagley, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Kristen Lafferty, Dory Klein, Angela Hedley-Mitchell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Collin Knight, Kimberly Barzola, David Leonard, Tatiana Cruz, Cedric Woods, Carolyn Goldstein, Bob Allison, Joan Ilacqua, Giordana Mecagni

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. OPEN DISCUSSION

- a. The group discussed changes to their meeting format following changes to the ordinance. They explored options for meeting structures, with suggestions to create a survey to gather input from other advisory groups about their preferred engagement methods. There were proposals to have internal meetings for decision-making and public meetings for product-based discussions, while commissioners noted that more flexibility might be available for the 400th anniversary planning compared to now.
- b. The group discussed the role and goals of the Commemoration Commission, focusing on their advisory function and potential contributions to various departments and organizations. They reviewed ongoing projects, such as the History Holder Database, and considered how to support events and storytelling related to historical commemorations. The commission also explored the possibility of acting as a resource for funding and grant opportunities for local



historians, highlighting the need for guidance in navigating the complex funding landscape.

- c. The team discussed the History Holder Database, with Commissioner Dory Klein presenting a mockup of the interface. The database includes a Google Translate widget for 10-11 Boston neighborhood languages and a search function, but not a neighborhood filter to avoid creating access barriers. The team also discussed including a contact email for questions and potentially adding a map feature with neighborhood filtering.
- d. Commissioner Klein explained that she would work with her colleagues to maintain the submission form and update information regularly. The group discussed the potential for future additions to the database.
- e. The group discussed their role and potential future projects, focusing on providing support and solutions to educational and City needs. Commissioner Angela Hedley-Mitchell highlighted the importance of curating resources for teachers and suggested using the database to offer training sessions. Commissioners emphasized the need for better communication and collaboration with Boston Public Schools (BPS) and other organizations, proposing regular meetings to address requests and connect stakeholders. The group also considered expanding their support to include non-curricular projects and discussed how organizations could reach out to them for assistance.
- f. The group discussed outreach strategies for the Commemoration Commission, including the need for a clear communication channel and social media presence. They explored options such as blog posts, newsletters, and cross-sharing on social media platforms to reach a wider audience.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There was no public comment.

V. ADJOURNMENT - 3:06 PM

- a. The meeting was adjourned.

Documents Presented: Draft Website of Boston Public Library's History Holders Database