



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

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

MAY 22, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Suzanne Taylor, Nat Sheidley, Karin Goodfellow, Sam Tully-Chambers, Esther Farah, Dave O'Donnell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Juan Lopez, Jay Ash, Juan Eusebio, Faries Gray, Kyera Singleton, Dr. Noelle Trent

STAFF PRESENT: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager

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. BICENTENNIAL PHOTOGRAPHY DISCUSSION

- a. The group discussed a potential photography project to mark Boston's 250th anniversary, inspired by Lou Jones' Bicentennial photography collection. Nat Sheidley proposed creating a new photography project to document 2026 Boston, potentially displaying both the historical Bicentennial photos and new photos side by side in City Hall. The group agreed to explore this idea further, with Karin Goodfellow offering to connect Sheidley with the City curator and Dave O'Donnell expressing interest in how Meet Boston could support the project.

IV. PROJECT REVIEW, NEXT STEPS, SCHEDULING, AND OTHER TOPICS

- a. The group discussed meeting structures and plans, with Pimentel proposing a rotation of open and working sessions. They reviewed the status of the markers program. They considered making recommendations to the City Council about City-sponsored trails.
- b. The group discussed plans for neighborhood events and markers to celebrate Boston's 250th or 400th anniversary, with Suzanne suggesting focusing on the 400th anniversary due to timeline constraints. Goodfellow raised questions



about the longevity and relevance of the anniversary markers, suggesting a more evergreen approach that could evolve over time.

- c. Esther Farah explained that Everyone 250 is working with the City to install approximately 10 markers at historically significant sites. The markers will feature QR codes that can be updated dynamically to provide multilingual content, and the project will coordinate with the City's marker program to avoid duplication of sites. The discussion also covered the community engagement process, which includes both committee review and public voting for site selection.
- d. The group discussed upcoming events in Boston, focusing on the Bunker Hill 250th celebration and the 4th of July. Genesis provided an update on the city's plans for Bunker Hill, including events, an archaeological dig, and coordination with Gloucester for a reenactment. They also discussed the Battle of Chelsea Creek event and the need to expand 4th of July celebrations across neighborhoods.
- e. The group discussed Embrace Boston's Juneteenth events, including an all-white party on June 18th and a conference on June 20th.
- f. Suzanne shared a 250 panel for Boston 250 and the Freedom Trail, which will be included in both the Freedom Trail brochure and hotel Rec Cards.
- g. The group discussed upcoming events and challenges related to the 250th anniversary of the city's founding.
- h. Nat provided an update on the National Park Service's new directives, which may affect funding and interpretation of history.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There were no public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 3:00 PM

- a. The meeting was adjourned.