



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

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

JULY 23, 2024

Commissioners Present: Joe Bagley, Bob Allison, Giordana Mecagni, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Kristen Lafferty, Carolyn Goldstein, Dory Klein, David Leonard, Cedric Woods, Joan Ilacqua

Commissioners Absent: Angela Hedley-Mitchell, Liza Stearns, Tatiana Cruz, Collin Knight, Kimberly Barzola

Staff Present: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Kayla Skillin, Archivist for Collections Management

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

SESSION BEGINS - 1:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Commemoration Commission Manager Genesis Pimentel welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting minute approval will be held off until the next meeting.

III. 6 MONTH REPORT

- a. Genesis Pimentel reviewed the 6 month report.
 - i. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni: The report is helpful to understand what other subcommittees are doing and how the vacancies in Historic Preservation might affect the Commission. She noted that it would be helpful for the Commissioners to meet the new Chief. She would like to know which City Councilors are championing the Commission's work.]
 1. Genesis Pimentel responded that a representative of the Chief would be at the 7/25/24 Commission meeting, that Council President Louijeune has appointed a designee to attend meetings, but that there could be more City Council engagement, and that she and others are working to resolve the issues the Commission is running into.



- ii. Commissioner Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai asked what the next step would be. If they all okay this draft, who does it go to? What happens once it's been received?
 1. Genesis Pimentel explained who would be receiving the report and what next steps could look like.
- b. Chair Joe Bagley reviewed the concepts for a potential web page with guides for the 250th and 400th including a focus on events, timelines, trails, and a landing page for archival searching.
 - i. Chair Bagley posed three questions:
 1. Are these four topics a good way to focus our efforts?
 2. Do the commissioners like how the timelines page has been organized?
 3. Is there a preference for how archival data sources are presented?
 - ii. Kayla Skillin discussed that AirTable can visually be presented in many ways.
 - iii. Chair Bagley stated that the subcommittee needed to decide who the audience for this section is—whether that's everyday Bostonians or researchers.
 - iv. Commissioner Wongsrichanalai suggested that that context be included in the timeline, so that it would be annotated.
 - v. Chair Bagley stated that it would make more sense for this to hyperlink to other archives, and this would be a way for people to filter by themes or topics and be able to winnow down the archives they have to look at.
 - vi. Kayla Skillin stated that she envisioned this having subject headings related to Boston anniversaries and archival experts would put places that are known to have resources related to these topics.
 - vii. Chair Bagley identified that next steps would be curating a list of topics then populating each topic with archives.
 - viii. There was discussion around the subjects that Boston has and how to identify what would be missing since they are only related to collections that Boston has. Skillin identified that Boston Archives doesn't have colonial records, as an example, and that subject headings come from the Library of Congress based on standard cataloging rules.
 - ix. Commissioner Carolyn Goldstein expressed concern about how themes are sorted because there has previously been focus only on neighborhood and not topic. Chair Bagley said he considered neighborhoods a potential topic and did not anticipate conflict between the two approaches.



- x. Skillin included that she viewed the project as a multi-lane highway in which the database would be used to filter by neighborhood and Indigenous history and further subtopics. She added that one school of thought is to say that Northeastern has good Dorchester archives but that it's better suited for a spreadsheet while you could instead do Northeastern has these specific archives.
- xi. The consensus became that this functions well for those who are beginning their research and that this would function like a front desk.
- xii. Commissioner Mecagni stated that a monumental task would be to create a comprehensive list of archives with open hours that have something to do with the history of Boston as our first goal.
- xiii. An idea floated around was to create a Google Form where people could input information about their archive with a Boston address to make sure it stays in the City's archives.
- xiv. The Commissioners would review the archives they have, winnow tags down next meeting, and have a draft form.

IV. DISCUSSION

- a. Commissioner Joan Ilacqua asked if there would be any pushback if the Commission moved to change its structure. Genesis Pimentel replied yes, but that there is merit in exploring options.
- b. Commissioners decided not to reschedule the August meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There was no public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 2:30 PM

- a. Chair Joe Bagley motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Commissioner Carolyn Goldstein seconded the motion.