



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

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

AUGUST 8, 2024

Commissioners Present: *Suzanne Taylor, Imari Jeffries, Celia Richa, Nat Sheidley, Eric Hanson-Plass, Konah Brownell for Jay Ash, Dr. Noelle Trent, Juan Eusebio, Sam Tully-Chambers, Faries Gray, Kyera Singleton, Dave O'Donnell*

Commissioners Absent: *Kara Elliott-Ortega, Juan Lopez, John Borders IV*

Staff Present: *Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager*

Public/Press Present: Ester Farah, Embrace Boston

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

SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Commemoration Commission Manager Genesis Pimentel welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting minutes were approved.

III. COMMEMORATION COMMISSION DEBRIEF

- a. Genesis Pimentel asked if the commissioners had any comments on the larger July meeting. She updated the Commissioners on the fact that there are internal discussions happening around the urgency and needs around the 250th.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION

- a. The commissioners reviewed the Boston 200 final report.
- b. Commissioner Nat Sheidley discussed how Boston 200 had \$11.9 million in private funding as well as almost \$5 million in public funding for historic preservation programming, which he stated would be equivalent to \$40 million in programming and \$16.5 million for preservation in 2024.
- c. Chair Imari Jeffries commented that commissioners feel frozen because the 7/25 meeting was the third Commission at-large meeting, and there is still no resource allocation, making it hard to move forward.
 - i. Genesis Pimentel noted that an internal suggestion was to make a plan and then create a budget and ask based on the plan. Action Item:



Commissioner Sheidley offered to connect Harron Ellenson, Vice President and Director of Boston 200, with the subcommittee and Commission.

1. Next Steps: Genesis Pimentel and Commissioner Sheidley connect with Ellenson.
 2. Timeframe: TBD
- d. Commissioner Sheidley commented how striking it was that the Boston 200 Report focused on how the things planned then would outlive the moment and how much they wanted education, tourism, and visitor services to expand with their programming and beyond the programming of Boston 200 to really focus on building better and longer-lasting infrastructure.
 - e. Commissioner Dave O'Donnell discussed how the 200th created new identities and experiences for Faneuil Hall and the Boston Harbor area at large. He continued by explaining that commissioners should think about whether the same frameworks could be applied or if new ones should exist, especially with major sports events happening.
 - f. Chair Jeffries asked if the City has the capacity to contemporize the information provided in the Boston 200 document and to work with already existing projects, so that City departments can take ownership over projects and recontextualize them, so that City departments can update the information on how to execute projects based on their own staffing capacity.
 - i. Commissioner Sheidley commented that Boston 200 had a long list of staff, so while the existing infrastructure of City Hall should be leveraged, he does not think that anything similar to the scale of Boston 200 could be accomplished without more capacity.
 - g. Genesis Pimentel pivoted to sharing the 1988 Faneuil Hall Commission Report, provided to her by Margaret Dyson, which included budget estimates for projects the Commission wanted to pursue.
 - h. Commissioner Celia Richa stated that a better approach might be to organize information by audience and then figure out the best way to reach them, whether that be a concert series or partnership. She continued that this should be broken up and then the organizations who are in particular areas or spaces can be identified, then what's missing comes after, and then budget conversations can happen. She added that the budget numbers from 1988 are not necessarily helpful, and it would be better to start from scratch.
 - i. Commissioner Noelle Trent discussed how museums have already decided and are in the process of putting things together, so what they could provide as of now are lists of events, and she stated she saw an opportunity for collaboration through digital such as setting up digital kiosks.
 - j. Genesis Pimentel gave an update on the internal meetings she had recently, on the request of Chair Taylor, and she discussed how the conversations have



centered around addressing Commission structure needs, and that she would be working on getting the Commission chairs to meet with the Chief in the coming weeks.

- k. Commissioner Noelle Trent stated that the next thing Pimentel should report on is that the Commemoration Commission needs more staff, for the City to figure out what minimums for salary are appropriate because it is not possible for Pimentel to execute anything alone. She added that these conversations within the Commission and internal stakeholders that do not produce tangible support are inappropriate.
- l. Commissioner Trent stated that unless there is a significant staffing increase with intentional funding to staff, the subcommittee does not see the point in moving forward with any other proposed ideas.
- m. Chair Taylor asked if the co-chairs of the Commission would echo this subcommittee's concerns, and Pimentel responded that they would.
- n. Commissioner Nat Sheidley made a formal motion that the commissioners of this subcommittee vote on a resolution to the effect that their ability to effectively comply with the charge given through the ordinance is contingent upon additional staff capacity being made available.
 - i. Chair Jeffries called a vote, asked for any opposition or abstentions, of which there were none. All Commissioners on the call voted in favor of the resolution.
 - ii. Action Item: Create an EET specific memo with this language
 - iii. Next Steps: Potentially set up a meeting between EET co-chairs and City stakeholders to discuss the motion and how to get that staffing capacity
 - iv. Concerns: It might make more sense to have all subcommittee co-chairs meet with internal stakeholders to present a united front
 - v. Timeframe: By October meeting
- o. Commissioner Sheidley stated he wanted to flag Commissioner Richa's comment around identifying audiences because it seemed to him like the best next step for the subcommittee. He added that it might be good to generate ideas and a framework, including audience segments the Commission is hoping to reach to identify what exists that is moving forward for the next two years and how we can align with organizations and particular audiences.
 - i. Action Item: Genesis Pimentel and Ester Farah of Embrace Boston collaborate to create a master calendar of events.
 - ii. Next Steps: Pimentel and Farah meet and share events.
 - iii. Timeframe: It has already been happening, but more push around adding events to be continuing.
- p. Chair Jeffries stated that the Arts and Culture Summit would be taking place on November 7th, and that would be an opportunity to engage on that front.



- q. Commissioner Trent stated that thinking about the things that would need funding, which would include events, exhibits, and the work TAC is doing, then she suggests that there is an allocation of \$10 million for each aspect—\$30 million total—as a benchmark to subtract or add from as projects begin to be formed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There were no public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 2:30 PM

- a. Chair Jeffries motioned to adjourn.
- b. Commissioner Sheidley seconded.

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