



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

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Commissioners Present: *Suzanne Taylor, Imari Jeffries, Nat Sheidley, Konah Brownell for Jay Ash, Dr. Noelle Trent, Sam Tully-Chambers, Dave O'Donnell*

Commissioners Absent: *Kara Elliott-Ortega, Juan Lopez, John Borders IV, Juan EusebioCelia Richa, Eric Hanson-Plass, Faries Gray, Kyera Singleton*

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. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

- a. Genesis Pimentel discussed that based on the conversation in the prior subcommittee meeting, she set up a meeting between the Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space with the co-chairs of this subcommittee.
- b. Genesis Pimentel and Nat Sheidley discussed whether connecting with Harron Ellenson was still a possibility.
- c. Genesis Pimentel explained how the existing roles that need to be filled in the Office of Historic Preservation are being expanded and the new role being added, and how the Chief intends for those roles to support the Commemoration Commission.
- d. Chair Suzanne Taylor discussed potentially being housed in another department such as Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment and discussed how the lack of knowledge of the Massachusetts 250 Event signals that there needs to be better connection between the City and the State.
- e. Commissioner Dave O'Donnell discussed the event some more since he is on the state committee, and he discussed how Commissioner John Borders IV has



advocated for figuring out the City's place within the State's brand umbrella, but that there still needs to be more streamlined communication. He added that this relates to the question around what the subcommittee is expected to do without Pimentel having extra support, including a tangible budget and personnel.

- f. Commissioner Sam Chambers asked who reports go to and who from the City is talking to the State, how often, and in general more clarity around collaboration points.
 - i. Pimentel responded that the internal working group for the 250th meets with the State.
 - ii. Chair Taylor asked why people in that internal working group were not in these subcommittee meetings.
 - iii. Pimentel stated that some are supposed to be coming to these meetings since they are Commission members.
- g. Genesis Pimentel asked if the Commissioners could identify exactly what the staffing capacity needs are.
 - i. Chair Taylor stated that there should be at least two people working on the Commission's goals, as per the ordinance. She added that Pimentel does a lot of administrative work whereas if she had someone supporting administratively, Pimentel could be doing community engagement.
- h. Commissioner Noelle Trent asked if the City will be pulling other departments' staff, then what percentage of time will be allotted for Commemoration work. She added that the federal government does details for 90 or 120 days, and if something similar exists, then that could provide a basis for a more meaningful shift in staff support.
- i. Commissioner O'Donnell added that with a budget and support staff, the possibility for Pimentel to focus on creating a vision and establishing marketing and for commissioners to recommend and guide the output would be more constructive.
- j. Commissioner Nat Sheidley added that because the subcommittee only meets once a month, the commissioners are in a position to provide conceptual frameworks, but that detailed, implementable plans require significant amounts of work between conversations for the Commission to respond to and Pimentel does not have the bandwidth to support that. He added that there are various kinds of specific expertise required to make recommendations, but that the commissioners need guidance regarding strategy and metrics for success.
 - i. Genesis Pimentel shared that the internal working group is working on a series of memos to share with the Mayor and with the commissioners for Boston's vision for the 250th, and that she is working on a policy memo to address the issue of not being able to work outside of meetings.
- k. Chair Imari Jeffries explained that with so many people having expertise in different disciplines, it will be difficult to recommend something and infuse



every lens into it without someone who can work to write it down in the form of a report.

- l. Genesis Pimentel stated that she is hoping to flesh out a better mechanism for the internal stakeholders to be a connective tissue to the subcommittees.
- m. Commissioner Trent recommended that the City pull together City employees that are the equivalent of this subcommittee that can potentially do details where they focus on doing the execution of these ideas, and they can present work, question, and more to the subcommittee for feedback, so that the goals of the ordinance can be executed.
- n. Commissioner Juan Lopez discussed how he would like to get started on doing implementation with the Latino community in terms of getting them involved.

IV. DISCUSSION ON NEXT STEPS

- a. Next steps included the meeting with the Chief and Pimentel connecting with Commissioner Lopez on activations.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There were no public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 2:45 PM

- a. The meeting was adjourned.