



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

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

DECEMBER 12, 2024

Commissioners Present: *Suzanne Taylor, Imari Jeffries, Nat Sheidley, Karin Goodfellow, Dr. Noelle Trent, Kyera Singleton*

Commissioners Absent: *Juan Lopez, Juan Eusebio, Eric Hanson-Plass, Faries Gray, Dave O'Donnell, Jay Ash, Celia Richa, Sam Tully-Chambers, John Borders IV*

Staff Present: *Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Kathy Kottaridis, Director of Historic Preservation; Sarah Lawton, Preservation Assistant*

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. TIMELINE OF EVENTS DISCUSSION

- a. Genesis Pimentel presented the subcommittee with the timeline of events that Timelines, Archives, and Curricula created for City departments to use if they would like to plan events around specific topics.
- b. The subcommittee reviewed it, gave feedback, and recommended that there be a mechanism where people can provide links, book titles, and similar information to move the data collection of dates or events along, so the chart gets automatically populated. Events can be broken down into time periods that are year-based.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION ON RELEVANT TOPICS

- a. Genesis Pimentel asked about trails and how they might function.
- b. Chair Suzanne Taylor suggested that we invite people of all neighborhoods and historical societies to create historical trails in their neighborhoods that celebrate their histories.



- c. Commissioner Nat Sheidley stated that it can be difficult to build a trail without identifying points of interest that we want to call attention to and that the process of identifying these points of interest must be very carefully done. He added that this process will ask the question of who has the authority to decide what ends up in a trail and what that means, so it must be a very community-based process.
- d. Commissioner Karin Goodfellow stated that Arts and Culture keeps track of existing plaques and marks, but it is not as updated as it should be and there are issues around public space being privatized. She added that while Arts and Culture takes care of this plaque program in terms of art, she believes that the task of reviewing content, sharing, and more should live in another department.
- e. Commissioner Nat Sheidley stated he could provide a list of the Bostonian Society's plaques.
- f. Ester Farah stated that Embrace Boston is working on a list of plaques to highlight black and brown histories of Boston, and Chair Imari Jeffries added that Embrace is working on raising money to ensure that the plaques will be bronzed and that some will be able to go up in 2 years.
- g. There was a discussion on making sure that this subcommittee sets recommendations, that there is a good community engagement process and good engagement with City departments and officials.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There were no public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 3:20 PM

- a. The meeting was adjourned.