



**COMMEMORATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

**OCTOBER 24, 2024**

**Commissioners Present:** Alison Frazee, Amanda Zettel, Angela Hedley-Mitchell, Bob Allison, Brian Swett, Carolyn Goldstein, Cedric Woods, Chelsea Blanchard, Collin Knight, David Leonard, Dory Klein, Faries Gray, Giordana Mecagni, Imari K. Jeffries, Jean-Luc Pierite, Joan Ilacqua, Joe Bagley, John Borders IV, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Kara Elliott-Ortega, Kimberly Barzola, Kristen Lafferty, Kyera Singleton, Lydia Lowe, Margaret Dyson, Michael Creasey, Nat Sheidley, Noelle Trent, Rebecca Tomasovic, Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Sam Tully-Chambers, Suzanne Taylor, Tatiana M.F. Cruz

**Commissioners Absent:** Dave O'Donnell, Liza Stearns, Senator Mike Rush, Juan Lopez, Juan Eusebio, Jay Ash, Lynn Smiledge, Eric Hanson-Plass, Celia Richa

**Staff Present:** Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Alex Meadow, Deputy Director of Partnerships; Amy Yandle, Director of Special Events; Stacia Sheputa, EEOS Director of Communications; Jesse Purvis, City Council Director of Policy; Stephen Chan, Senior Advisor in Partnerships; Candace Nguyen, EEOS Executive Assistant; Dorothy Clark, Assistant Survey Director

**Press:** Alison Pultinas, Fenway News

**Public:** Ester Farah, Kathy Kottaridis

A full recording of the meeting is available on [boston.gov/commemoration-commission](https://boston.gov/commemoration-commission)

**SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM**

**I. WELCOME**

- a. Genesis Pimentel welcomed attendees.
- b. New EEOS Chief Brian Swett and incoming Director of Historic Preservation, Kathy Kottaridis, introduced themselves to the Commission.

**II. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Meeting minutes were approved.
- b. Subcommittees gave updates.

**III. MA250 EVENT + GRANT DEBRIEF**

- a. Commissioners discussed the MA250 event and the grant. Some organizations on the Commission were able to get grants while some were not.



**IV. POLICY MEMO REVIEW AND UPDATE**

- a. Genesis Pimentel reviewed the Policy Memo and its legal implications for the Commissioners to put to a vote. It was rewritten to better reflect the goals of the change.
- b. The Commissioners voted 26 Yes, 0 No.

**V. CITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 250 DISCUSSION**

- a. Alex Meadow introduced himself as the new Deputy Director for Partnerships and gave a presentation of the City of Boston's vision for the 250th after internal multidepartmental conversations and consultation with the Mayor. The impact areas that the presentation suggested focusing on include vehicles for funding, events, markers, exhibits, archival projects, and communications.
  - i. Commissioner Noelle Trent expressed concern around competing against the City for funding resources. Alex Meadow explained that this was not the City's intention and that the City means to support organizations.
  - ii. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni discussed needing a process for auditing the trails and markers created.
  - iii. Commissioner Chelsea Blanchard expressed wanting a landmark/plaque program to exist inside of the Office of Historic Preservation long-term.
  - iv. Commissioner Lydia Lowe suggested creating a database and sharing resources for trails and other community initiatives.
  - v. Chair Jean-Luc Pierite discussed making sure initiatives consider local tribes and are culturally sensitive, perhaps through mapping or a toolkit.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. There were no public comments.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT - 4:00 PM**

- a. Commissioner Bob Allison made a motion to adjourn.
- b. Commissioner Suzanne Taylor seconded.