



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

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201

Held virtually via Zoom

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Commissioners Present: Joe Bagley, Giordana Mecgani, Tatiana Cruz, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Liza Stearns, Kristen Lafferty, Carolyn Goldstein, Dory Klein, Joan Ilacqua, Collin Knight

Commissioners Absent: Bob Allison, Kimberly Barzola, David Leonard, Cedric Woods, Angela Hedley-Mitchell

Staff Present: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Meghan Capone, Archivist for Reference and Outreach

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.
- b. Commissioners introduced themselves and expressed their interest in historic preservation.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Selecting Co-Chairs: Commissioner Joe Bagley and Commissioner Bob Allison self-nominated prior to this meeting. During the meeting, the co-chair selection was put to a vote, and both Joe Bagley and Bob Allison were unanimously voted in as co-chairs.

III. DISCUSSION

- a. Chair Joe Bagley mentioned how each subcommittee has its own timeline, which matters because other subcommittees are more about dissemination while this subcommittee is about data. This focus on data means that this commission will have to be frontloading their work to provide information to the other subcommittees.
- b. Genesis Pimentel reads the ordinance to explain the charge of the subcommittee, at the request of Commissioner Giordana Mecagni.
- c. Commissioner Tatiana Cruz discussed how her lens is contemporary history, and the fact that the 50th anniversary of desegregation (in Boston Public Schools) is coming up this year. She stated that June 1974 and September 1974 are the



important dates for desegregation in Boston, and that should be part of the Commission's focus now.

- d. Commissioner Liza Stearns brought up that the ideals and questions that surrounded desegregation and civil rights are definitely tied to the questions being asked 250 years ago. She mentioned that the National Parks Service of Boston is organizing around questions asked 250 years ago and the questions that arise in every generation after, and how that can be used to frame events and exhibits.
- e. Commissioner Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai asked if it was possible to tack onto events that are already being planned. He brought up that the Massachusetts Historical Society will be celebrating two anniversaries: the 20th anniversary of the legalization of gay marriage in MA and the 100th anniversary of the Immigration Act that limited immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe to the United States.
- f. Chair Joe Bagley shifted the conversation to discuss the boundaries of this subcommittee and how they overlap with others. He discussed that the TAC subcommittee will have to make others aware of anniversaries and events through creating a timeline. He asked whether this role should be expanded.
- g. Commissioner Carolyn Goldstein mentioned that there was a discussion about story collection and would like to know where that fits in between the subcommittees because she knows America 200 had neighborhood stories.
- h. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni mentioned that it was neighborhood committees who interviewed residents, but she does not see how that could happen now without funding.
- i. Commissioner Kristen Lafferty said it was done under Boston's 200th Commission, similar to this one, but that it seems they had significantly more funding than this group does now.
- j. Commissioner Tatiana Cruz thinks the subcommittee is curating data, not just collecting it, which means that the Commission should think about how to present these collections to the public. She also wanted to discuss the curriculum component. She also mentioned that EET should be having meetings with TAC.
- k. Chair Joe Bagley knows people interested in 250 and 400 materials will be coming to Genesis Pimentel, specifically, for information.
- l. Commissioner Liza Stearns echoed Commissioner Tatiana's Cruz point that something like a website or toolkit will be necessary to frame the Commission's expansive nature, so that data can be accessible for others to use.

IV. DEFINING MEASURABLE GOALS

- a. Chair Joe Bagley stated that the goals he thinks make sense are finding a way to collect data, putting the data in a publicly accessible space, and encouraging



others to add to the data beyond what the subcommittee can collect. He stated this could start with this subcommittee collecting data, expanding it to the larger Commission, then to the public.

- i. Chair Joe Bagley and Joan Ilacqua both spoke on how they believe that dates should not be used as a way to limit their scope because important histories will get missed.
 - ii. Genesis Pimentel created a Google Folder for them to begin aggregating their data.
 - iii. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni suggested reaching out to historical and neighborhood societies for information.
 - iv. Commissioner Carolyn Goldstein mentioned that groups of people also matter, so the Commissioners have to get a good handle on communities outside of neighborhoods.
 - v. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni asked Chair Joe Bagley if he wanted to use community asset mapping. Chair Joe Bagley replied that they're not there yet, and that Tatiana Cruz mentioned discussing the lists they'll compile in the upcoming meeting.
 - vi. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni introduced a timeline created during resilience and racial equity work, created on Timeline.JS, which she recommends as a platform.
 - vii. Chair Joe Bagley stated that in theory, the Commemoration Commission page can be broken down into parts where all this information can live. However, he stated that there are limitations to what the website can do.
- b. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni offered to host whatever the boston.gov website cannot, and that communities need historical asset mapping in Boston.
- i. Chair Joe Bagley knows ARCGIS and StoryMaps can be used by the City. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni mentioned that Google Maps works well also.
- c. Chair Joe Bagley opens the conversation to Curricula. He asks if we are looking at just BPS or broader and that it should expand beyond social studies to include other areas such as STEM.
- i. Commissioner Tatiana Cruz mentioned that Facing Histories and Ourselves put together an 8th grade social studies curriculum on BPS in the 60s-70s. She asked who is working on curriculum development and professional development for teachers. She stated that BPS teachers want more on racial or queer histories. She also would like to expand beyond BPS. She noted that some schools might have strong Black History curriculum but will lack good curriculums for the population they serve the most, so they might have to do an informal survey on schools.
 - ii. Genesis Pimentel mentioned that internships could be a good venue for students.



- iii. Chair Joe Bagley asked for clarification on whether curricula development meant working with teachers on developing something or giving teachers an already finished product.
 - iv. Commissioner Tatiana Cruz explained that BPS teachers don't create curriculums because they have to follow a standard curriculum. Tatiana Cruz stated that the subcommittee's next steps should be finding out what their curriculum currently is, how that's being taught, their professional development, and if they are interested in building new units not confined to history or social studies. With private schools, she mentioned they have much more autonomy. She thinks a good starting question is "What do you teach about the history of Boston?"
 - v. Chair Joe Bagley asked if the subcommittee's audience is teachers or administrators.
 - vi. Commissioner Liza Stearns discussed how BPS deconstructed their central office for curricula, so schools can function as silos. She discussed how the Parks Service focuses on community-practice, place-based teaching, so they have a Teaching Institute every summer. She noticed that teachers don't have the capacity to create the curricula themselves but getting support is great.
 - vii. Commissioner Tatiana Cruz agreed with Commissioner Liza Stearns, stating that she has created units for teachers because it is difficult for teachers to do the research and curation themselves. She raised the idea that TAC should curate a resource document for teachers. Tatiana Cruz, Liza Stearns, and Collin Knight expressed interest collaborating on the curriculum aspect.
- d. Chair Joe Bagley discussed that the Ordinance asked for a product in 6 months and asked if people felt comfortable setting goals now. Joe Bagley thinks that within three months, there could be an initial draft of a timeline. He specified that there could be an internal draft within a month and external drafts within 3 months.
- i. Commissioner Tatiana Cruz suggested using part of the next meeting to prioritize based on anniversaries that are coming first and create the timeline then.
 - ii. Commissioners Giordana Mecagni and Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai expressed interest in cultural asset mapping for archives.
 - iii. Commissioner Dory Klein introduced an index of archival collections pertaining to Chinatown to share a potentially useful data model.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There were no public comments.



VI. ADJOURNMENT - 2:30 PM

- a. Commissioner Tatiana Cruz motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni seconded.