

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council

February 28, 2017 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Kevin Moloney, Michael Reiskind, Jacob Glickel, Max Glikman, Kelly Vaughan Husid, Carmel Levy, Kevin Rainsford, Carolyn Royce, Kyle Smith, Peter Steiger, Gert Thorn, and Jeffrey Wiesner.

Elected at the meeting: Eric Herot

Other attendees: Dana Gonsalves, Mark Del Vecchio, Sarah Freeman, DB Reiff (City Councillor Annissa Essaibi-George's Office), Amanda Alvarez (Office of State Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez), Jessie Zimmerer (Office of State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz), Natalie Kaufman (Office of State Rep. Liz Malia), State Representative Liz Malia, and Richard Heath (Boston Bulletin).

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm by Kevin Moloney at Farnsworth House.

1. Introductions: Council members introduced themselves.

2. Rep. Liz Malia: State Representative Liz Malia has a new assignment and is now Assistant Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. She promised to use her experience at the Substance Use Committee for the next steps in the State House war on the opioids crisis. She said that if you want to keep people alive until they get treatment, you have to use more Narcan and Suboxone. New cases of addiction have slowed, but already-addicted folks are suffering and dying. The needle exchange law was changed last year and the program is now under the jurisdiction of local authorities. The Baker administration has been a good partner in Rep. Malia's efforts. New legislation filed along with Mayor Walsh is for a court diversion project to keep folks out of the criminal justice system and mandate that insurance companies pay for 30 days of full-spectrum drug treatment. Other new legislation filed is a bill that will encourage use of "kiosks" in public spaces, such as pharmacies, for the collection of used needles, a bill for emergency rooms to help users in Narcan withdrawal stay in treatment, a bill to train police departments how to use community policing when responding to drug users, a bill for "CORI reform 2.0" to allow access to employment and housing, and a bill to regulate credit scores in employee hiring. Rep. Malia also said that Massachusetts has not been good enough in funding for mass transit.

3. Approval of January minutes: Motion by Michael Reiskind to approve the January 24, 2017 minutes. Seconded by Kevin Moloney. Passed 10-0-2.

4. Announcements:

4.1. Council vacancies: Kevin Moloney said that there is one JPNC seat still vacant, and that is in Area A. Eric Herot, presented himself as a candidate. Since 2011, he has lived at 155 Amory Street, which is next door to the 125 Amory Street development. His occupation is software engineer. He has a strong interest in housing and fills much of his spare time reading and learning about urban planning and land use policy. He has attended meetings at the Housing & Development Committee and is interested in the H&DC and the Zoning Committee. He promised to have a good attendance record. Motion by Jacob Glickel to have Eric Herot fill the JPNC Area A vacancy. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 12-0-0. Eric Herot took a seat at the JPNC member table.

4.2. Other Announcements:

- Dana Gonsalves said that there will be a ribbon cutting to celebrate the installation of a sculpture topping off the smokestack at The Brewery. It now completes the full word "Haffenreffer". It will be on Thursday, March 2 at 3:30pm at the Bella Luna deck, 284 Amory Street.

- On Saturday, June 17, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JP NDC) will celebrate its 40 years of work at The Brewery. They will have their annual meeting from 11:00am-12noon, followed by a party at 12:00noon, all taking place at 31 Germania Street.

- There will be an Advocacy Boot Camp for Fenway park advocates at Fenway Community Center on Saturday, March 11.

- Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez will be having a meeting releasing the results of his recent Community Survey. It will be on Thursday, March 23 at 6:00pm, at The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, 633 Centre Street.

- The annual meeting of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will be on Monday, March 22. It will be an annual meeting and Speak Out Lecture, "Walking the Earth: Steps Toward Sustainability" by Dr. John Francis, starting at 6:00pm at Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Avenue.

- On Wednesday, April 26, there will be a celebration of Frederick Law Olmsted's 195th Birthday starting at 6:30pm at the First Church, Unitarian Universalist, Centre and Eliot Street.

5. Committee Reports/Recommendations:

5.1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee reported out that the full Council should vote in March on the proposals submitted by the EPE Committee - for a change in Article 7 of the JPNC by-laws relating to the mandate of the Environment, Parks & Energy Committee and for a change in its quorum for Committee meetings. Also, the Executive Committee is recommending that the JPNC vote to consider removal of Bruce Marks as a

Council member for the reason of excessive absences at JPNC meetings and Zoning Committee meetings. Mr. Marks has not attended a JPNC meeting since July 2016. Motion by the Executive Committee to consider removal of Bruce Marks as a Council member. Seconded by Jacob Glickel. Passed 12-0-1. Since Mr. Marks was not present, written notice will be sent to him by registered or certified mail.

5.2. Public Service Committee: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee did not meet in February because it met twice in January. There was a question about any license request from the new brewery planning to open on Washington Street, Turtle Swamp Brewing. There has been no request yet from the owners, John Lincecum or Nicholas Walther.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be on March 7 at 7:00pm at Curtis Hall.

5.3. Zoning Committee (ZC): Kyle Smith reported that the Zoning Committee met on February 1 and February 15. Five matters were considered and four need a vote by the JPNC. One matter was sent to the Executive Committee because it was heard by the Zoning Board of Appeal on February 7: 20R Spring Park Avenue, a request by Peter Kasper and Florence Zimmerman, to renovate and expand an existing carriage house; and convert a carriage house to single-family dwelling. The proposed work does not expand the footprint of the existing carriage house, and there is off-street parking to accommodate the new residence. There was no opposition from abutters or other neighbors on Spring Park Avenue, and several letters of support were submitted. Because the house is set so far back from the public way, the building could pose a challenge for firefighting equipment. The recommendation of the ZC and Executive Committee was to recommend approval, with the proviso that the applicant install a sprinkler system in the new residence. The four matters needing a vote by the JPNC are: 1) 25 Amory Street, a request by the JP NDC and The Community Builders, to construct 44 residential units in a four-story, 47,900 square foot building for affordable rental housing. The JP NDC is also involved in the redevelopment of nearby 125 Amory Street. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 2) 28 Cornwall Street, a request by Matthew Brett, to split an existing first-floor unit into two individual units and convert from three-family to four-family occupancy; no exterior modifications. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 3) 11 Dane Street, a request by Andrew Salama and Rachel Barnabel-Fried, to construct a 145 square foot addition to the rear of an existing single-family residence. The Jamaica Pond Association heard this request and does not oppose. The next-door neighbor affected is in support. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 4) 12 Hubbard Street, a request by Edward Honeycutt, to extend living space into basement to create a new residential unit; building to remain a two-family dwelling; work to include adding new basement egress, bathroom, and kitchenette. This is the second time the ZC heard this issue. The first time, there was opposition because there was not a lot of light coming into the unit and only one exit. The applicant has fundamentally changed the design and there is now a second exit with a full door. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. Motion by Kevin Moloney to approve the recommendations on 25 Amory Street, 28 Cornwall Street, 11 Dane Street and 12 Hubbard Street. Seconded by Kyle Smith. Passed 13-0-0.

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be on March 22 at 7:00pm at Farnsworth House. On the agenda will be 3353 Washington Street and an informational presentation on 1785 Columbus Avenue.

5.4. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Carolyn Royce reported that the Housing & Development Committee met on February 23 at Farnsworth House and discussed two issues, 1785 Columbus Avenue and the Arborway Yard. They submitted a draft letter on each issue. The H&DC heard a presentation on 1785 Columbus Avenue from the developers, Watermark Horizons LLC (Watermark Development and Horizons for Homeless Children). This is a large property bounded on three sides by Columbus Avenue, Dimock Street, and Amory Street. It is not housing, but an office building. Horizons for Homeless Children will own the first two floors as a commercial condominium, and the other four floors will be rented out to non-profit groups. The Committee struggled with what to ask a developer who is not providing any housing. The H&DC is requesting more Development Impact Project (DIP) linkage fees than the City minimum of \$10.01/sq.ft. after the first 100,000 sq.ft. Motion by Carolyn Royce to send the draft letter on the 1785 Columbus Avenue project to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), after redrafting and tightening up the language. Seconded by Kyle Smith. The understanding is to retain the exact same requests but sharpen the letter's language. Passed 12-0-0 (1 left early).

Motion by Kevin Rainsford to send the submitted draft letter to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) asking that the Arborway Yard be included in the next round of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Affordable housing is the most important use of the 8 acres promised to be transferred by MassDOT. Passed 12-0-0 (1 left early).

There will be a meeting of the BPDA on Thursday, March 2 at which Plan:JP/Rox will be voted on. Natalie Kaufman, from State Rep. Liz Malia's office, said that the JP planner from BPDA, Marie Mercurio, promised a robust future community process even after a vote of the BPDA.

The next meeting of the H&DC will be on Tuesday, March 21 at 7pm at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street.

5.5. Environment, Parks & Energy Committee (EPE): Peter Steiger reported that the EPE Committee met on February 14 (postponed from February 9) and discussed three issues: 1) Business Recycling and the Hyde Jackson Square Main Streets Centre Street Saves project: Jake Glickel is working on the first. 2) A Repair Café/Fixit Clinic:

Priscilla Yang is working on this. 3) Airplane Noise: Peter Steiger is taking the lead in researching the topic and reaching out to different folks. Erica Walker, a Harvard School of Public Health student is researching the impact of noise on health and will assemble a fact sheet.

Motion by Peter Steiger to add Rickie Harvey as a community member of the Environment, Parks & Energy Committee. Seconded by Jacob Glickel. Passed 12-0-0 (1 left early)

The EPE Committee will have a new meeting day, the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting of the EPE Committee will be on Wednesday, March 15 at 6:00pm at JP Licks.

6. New Business:

- Community Servings is holding an Ice Skating & Hot Chocolate Party on Wednesday, March 1 at 4:30pm at the Kelly Rink and Community Servings at 18 Marbury Terrace.

7. Adjournment: Motion by Kyle Smith to adjourn the February 2017 JPNC meeting. Passed 12-0-0 (1 left early).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind.

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 7:00PM at Farnsworth House

Next Executive Committee meeting: Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 7:00PM at JP Licks, 659 Centre Street