

**Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council**  
**November 27, 2012 Minutes**

**JPNC Attendance:** Ben Day, Red Burrows, David Baron, Erin Colgan-Snyder, Oliver DeLeon, Michael Reiskind, Martha Rodriguez, Ken Sazama, Hyun Shin, Jesse White, Jeffrey Wiesner, and Joseph Wight.

**Community Attendance:** Judy Neiswander, Jamey Lionette, Jeff Bernard, Bill Munger, Ron Hafer, Helen Matthews, Kalina Black, Ian Rausch, Josh Muncey, Michael Silverman, Julianna Connolly, Andrew Shapiro, Kelvin Brooks, Bashier Kayou, Jake Kritzer, Charles Bosse, Jesse Littlewood, Michael Rousseau, Tom Kieffer, Elmer Freeman, Susan Naimark, Erin Taylor (Mass. Energy), Peter Roth,(New Atlantic Development), Richard Thal (JP Neighborhood Development Corporation), Leslie Bos (JP Neighborhood Development Corporation), Ture Turnbull (City Councillor Matt O'Malley's office), Heather Perez (City Councillor Felix Arroyo's office), Michael Baker (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez's office), Jullianne Doherty (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services), Bret Silverberg

(Jamaica Plain Patch), Pete Shanley (Jamaica Plain Gazette).

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by Ben Day at the Julia Martin House.

**I. JPNC Member Introductions:** Members introduced themselves and audience members introduced themselves.

**II. Introductions of Potential New Council Members:** Several residents in the audience were interested in filling one of the five vacancies on the JP Neighborhood Council and introduced themselves. The following spoke about themselves, the neighborhood and the JP Neighborhood Council: Judy Neiswander, Jamey Lionette, Bill Munger, Ian Rausch, Josh Muncey, Michael Silverman, Julianna Connolly, Andrew Shapiro, Kelvin Brooks, Bashier Kayou, and

Jake Kritzer.

**III. Additions to/subtractions from Agenda:** The presentation by Ned Friedman about the Arnold Arboretum will be given in December. There will be an additional presentation today by Mass. Energy Consumers Alliance.

**IV. Announcements:**

- Meeting on renovations to the JP Branch Library. It will be on Wednesday, November 28 from 6pm at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street.

- Two-day Equity Forum 2012 will be held on Friday, November 30 at 11am-4pm and Saturday, December 1 at 9am-3pm at the SEIU 1199 offices, 150 Mt. Vernon Street, Dorchester.

- Weatherize Now! Open House and Winter Party held by Renew Boston and Boston Building Resources will be on Saturday, December 1 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at 100 Terrace Street, Roxbury.

- The Mayor's JP Holiday Trolley Tour & Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 1 at 1:30pm at the Egleston Square Peace Garden, Washington and School Streets.

- Mt. Pleasant Home Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 2 starting at 2:00pm at 301 So. Huntington Ave.

- The Mayor's JP Holiday Trolley Tour & Tree Lighting will be on Saturday, December 8 at 1:30pm at the Soldier's Monument, Centre and South Streets.

- The Mayor's JP Holiday Trolley Tour & Tree Lighting will be on Saturday, December 8 at 2:15pm at the Hyde Square rotary, Centre and Perkins and Day Streets.

- The Daughters of St. Paul Christmas Concerts will be on Saturday, December 8 at 7:00pm and Sunday, December 9 at 3:00pm at the Daughters of St. Paul Chapel at 50 St. Paul's Avenue.

- The MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center will be having a Homeless for the Holidays Gift & Bake Sale to support animals cared for at the medical center. It will be from Thursday, December 13 to Sunday, December 16.

- **Mass. Energy Consumers Alliance:** Erin Taylor, from Mass. Energy Consumers Alliance spoke about Renew Boston, a service of the City in partnership with NSTAR and National Grid to provide energy efficiency improvements. They are offering a no-cost energy assessment of the home, as well as 75% rebates on insulation (up to \$2,000). Single-family homeowners as well as renters are welcome and encouraged to participate, provided the residence is no larger than 4 units. Ms. Taylor passed around a sign-up sheet for the free energy assessment. They have already done 2000 homes and have a goal of 10,000 for the city. There will be an Open House on Saturday, December 1 - see the announcement above. Even though landlords are limited up to four units, there is a different program at City Hall for over four units as well. Dave Baron asked about the potential fear that landlords may have that their units are not fully up to code and so do not call for the free energy assessment. Ms. Taylor answered that

the inspectors must report any serious health and safety violations that they find during their assessments.

**V. Approval of October minutes:** Motion by Red Burrows to approve the October 2012 minutes. Seconded by Ken Sazama. Passed 12-0-0. The September minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

## **VI. Committee Reports:**

a. Zoning: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met on November 8 and November 15. There were one item that was brought to the JPNC Executive Committee: 60 Sheridan Street, a request by Peter Herman to enclose a side porch and add space to an existing bedroom.

The following two recommendations do need a vote of the JPNC: 1) 633 Centre Street (First Baptist Church of JP), is asking to change the occupancy to allow for additional use as a daycare and preschool for children 15 months to 5 years old. Last year the Church had a charter school as a temporary rental and this year is renting to a preschool with 35 children. There is some pick and drop off, but many walk to school. There are no buses. The preschool is allowed, but the variance is to add daycare. The Committee recommends approval. 2) 38 Paul Gore Street, a request by Erica and Michael Lewy to enclose a porch on the first floor. The porch is toward the back of property. The Committee recommends approval. Motion by Red Burrows to recommend approval of the two requests as presented by the Zoning Committee. Seconded by Ken Sazama. Passed 12-0-0.

The next meetings of the Zoning Committee will be Thursday, December 6 at Curtis Hall and Thursday,

December 20 at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street, both at 7:00pm.

b. Public Service: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on November 13 at Greater Egleston High School. It was a follow up meeting on Coco's Lounge all-alcohol license at 3169-13171 Washington Street (former Old Stag location). As a proviso of their license, the owners had promised to meet with the community three months after opening. People were generally pleased with the new enterprise, although there are some important noise and parking issues that need to be addressed.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, December 4 at the State Laboratories at 305 South Street at 7:00pm. On the agenda will be a request of Simpli Bar & Bites at 3840 Washington Street in Forest Hills for a 7-day all-alcohol license. This will be a new establishment, in the new building being built across from the

Harvest Coop Market, with the hours of 5:30am to 1:00am.

c. Parks & Open Space: *No report.*

d. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Joseph Wright reported that the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has offered to have a corridor planning study of South Huntington Avenue from Perkins Street to Huntington Avenue. There are existing development proposals for 161 So. Huntington and 105A So. Huntington and maybe others pending. Even though the BRA had a community review process for 161 So. Huntington Avenue, the BRA and Zoning Board of Appeals approved the project over the strong community rejection of the proposal. It is agreed that planning by variance is not good planning, and with 105A So. Huntington, Goddard House and empty parcels up for development, a planning approach is desperately needed. Ben Day summarized a draft letter to the BRA emphasizing the major changes and development pressures and asking the BRA to plan before approving future developments with extensive zoning variances and to keep the present zoning in place until after the planning process. The letter was discussed and some changes in wording were agreed to by consensus. Motion by Joseph Wight

to approve the draft letter to the BRA with the wording changes. Seconded by Red Burrows. Passed 12-0-0.

Norbert School - Joseph Wight reported that the H&DC considered the Norbert School proposed development. A new developer will purchase the school building for \$900,000 and build 21 new market-rate rental units. No zoning variances required, but it is a change to the previous plan for the entire Blessed Sacrament project under Article 80. Joseph Wight felt uncomfortable with the idea of splitting the Blessed Sacrament development and segregating the affordable and market-rate units. The Committee recommended to not support the Norbert School proposal. There were presentations by Leslie Bos, Richard Thal and Peter Roth from Church Square Associates, the developers of the Blessed Sacrament campus. Church Square is a joint venture of the JP Neighborhood Development Corporation (JP NDC) and New Atlantic Development. Ken Tangvik from the Hyde Square Task Force said that Church Park broke the consensus that there would not be housing at the Norbert School, never mind luxury housing. Red Burrows spoke against the change because there is not even one unit of affordable housing planned for the building.

Motion by Red Burrows to accept the Housing & Development Committee recommendation and not support the proposed Norbert School development. Seconded by Jesse White. Jeffrey Wiesner spoke for the development as a way of diversifying the campus and as a way for the JP NDC to pay off the debt on the Blessed Sacrament project.

Passed 7-2-3.

e. Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group (DAG): *No report.*

f. Jackson Square Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC): Red Burrows reported that there has been a big debate within the CAC about the hiring practices on the 225 Centre construction project. The issue is whether the Minority Business hiring is correct, or whether there has been double counting. Urban Edge would like some guidance from the

JPNC and Roxbury Neighborhood Council.

g. Ad-Hoc Racial Justice Committee: Ben Day introduced six members of the Committee and presented some recommendations. The main focus is to change the institutional and structural inequities of the JPNC. 1) The Central Recommendation is to work individually with each Committee of the JPNC to analyze and make specific recommendations for each Committee. Select Racial Justice Committee members will work with each Committee and report back. 2) Change the look of the JPNC and each Committee. 3) Conduct a neighborhood forum to discuss racial justice. 4) Have each Committee submit demographic make-up of the Committee and gather information on each Committee member when submitting their name as a voting member. Red Burrows asked that we discuss this more at the December meeting. Motion by Red Burrows to accept the Ad-Hoc Racial Justice Committee's Central

Recommendation. Seconded by David Baron. Passed 12-0-0.

**VII. New Business/Old Business:**

- Ken Sazama reported on the JPNC retreat. The main idea that resulted is to try to make the JPNC meetings more understandable (fewer acronyms), more productive, and more enjoyable (refreshments).
- Lacking a Secretary, Michael Reiskind was nominated and no other volunteers spoke up. The members offered him some help. There were no nominations to change the other elected officers of the JPNC.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.**

*Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind*

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00PM, place TBA.

Next Executive Committee meeting: Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street