

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council

January 24, 2017 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Kevin Moloney, Bernard Doherty, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Robin Cheung, Jacob Glickel, Kevin Leary, Kevin Rainsford, Carolyn Royce, Peter Steiger, Gert Thorn, Meg Wood, and Priscilla Yang.

Elected at the meeting: Carmel Levy, Max Glikman, and Kelly Vaughan Husid.

Other attendees: Kate Lena, Margaret Thompson, Bryan Lincks, Sarah Freeman, DB Reiff (City Councillor Annissa Essaibi-George's Office), Amanda Alvarez (Office of State Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez), Natalie Kaufman (Office of State Rep. Liz Malia), Alexandra Valdez (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services), and Richard Heath (Boston Bulletin).

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by Kevin Moloney at Farnsworth House.

1. Introductions: Council members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of November and December minutes: Since there was no JPNC quorum at last month's JPNC meeting, the November minutes were only passed as a "Sense of the Meeting" and require confirmation at tonight's meeting. Motion by Michael Reiskind to approve both the November 22, 2016 minutes and the December 27, 2016 minutes. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 12-0-1.

3. Announcements:

3.1. Council vacancies: Kevin Moloney said that there are four JPNC seats still vacant: two in Area A, one in Area B, and one At-Large. Carmel Levy, who also attended in December, has lived at 5 Adelaide Street for two years. His occupation is writing mathematics curricula. He has attended meetings at the Public Service Committee and the Zoning Committee. Motion by Bernard Doherty to have Carmel Levy fill the JPNC At-Large vacancy. Seconded by Michael Reiskind. Passed 13-0-0.

Max Glikman said that he would like to join the Neighborhood Council. He lives at 7 Glenvale Terrace and is a housing manager. He previously worked on affordable housing programs and policy at the US Government Accountability Office. He has attended at the Housing & Development Committee. He is interested in the Public Service Committee and the Housing & Development Committee. Motion by Kevin Leary to have Max Glikman fill the JPNC Area B vacancy. Seconded by Priscilla Yang. Passed 13-0-0.

Kelly Vaughan Husid said that she would like to join the Neighborhood Council. She has lived at 240 Amory Street in Area B since May 2016. She works as a lawyer downtown. She is interested in public safety and community service and so would like to join the Public Service Committee. She has not attended any committee meeting yet. There was discussion of whether a vote should be put off until Ms. Husid can attend some committee meetings. It was decided not to defer a vote. Motion by Gert Thorn to have Kelly Vaughan Husid fill a JPNC Area A vacancy. Seconded by Bernard Doherty. Passed 13-0-0. Carmel Levy, Max Glikman, and Kelly Vaughan Husid took seats at the JPNC member table.

3.2. Other Announcements:

- Kevin Moloney said that he invited public officials to attend and speak at JPNC meetings in 2017. State Rep. Liz Malia will be attend next month in February and State Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez will present in March.

- The public comment period for the final Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) report of Plan:JP/Rox ends on Wednesday, January 25.

- "Art, Craft and Reform: The Eliot School, Manual Arts Training and the Arts and Crafts Movement", a lecture about JP's oldest institution, will start at 2:00pm on Sunday, February 5 at The Footlight Club, 7A Eliot Street.

- There will be a community meeting on Phase V Improvements to Franklin Park Pathways on Thursday, January 26 at 6:00pm at the Franklin Park Golf Course Club House, 1 Circuit Drive, Dorchester.

- On Saturday, January 28, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site is offering special non-traditional tours at 12:00noon and 2:00pm, with standard interpretive tours at 1:00pm and 3:00pm.

- The Friends of Allendale Woods are holding a special fundraiser on Sunday, January 29 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at P. J. Kelleher's, 1410 Centre Street, Roslindale.

- There is a Request for Proposals (RFP) available for applicants interested in operating a City Hall coffee shop as part of the renovation of the lobby of City Hall.

- There will be a community meeting about the expansion of Horizons for Homeless Children into a site at 1785 Columbus Avenue. It will be on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00pm at the present Horizons for Homeless Children location at 1705 Columbus Avenue.

- The annual City of Boston Homeless Census will take place on Wednesday, January 25. Volunteers can report to City Hall starting at 8:30pm.

4. Committee Reports/Recommendations:

4.1. Environment, Parks & Energy Committee (EPE): Priscilla Yang reported that the EPE Committee met on January 12 and discussed six issues: 1) Business Recycling: The Committee will help conduct a survey in the Hyde/Jackson Square area to entice businesses to make improvements to reduce energy use and reduce energy cost. 2) The Committee is hoping for a permanent citywide facility for electronics and hazardous waste collection or more frequent days for dropping them off. 3) The plastic bag ban ordinance has been stalled because the Mayor's office did not support it. It has been reintroduced by Councillor O'Malley. Also discussed were 4) a repair café, 5) a location for an off-leash dog park, and 6) airplane noise: The EPE Committee will reach out to Rob Elfer in Milton, Rep. Lynch, the Massport Community Advisory Committee – Will Lyman is the representative from JP, and R. John Hansman who is leading the research into alternatives.

The Executive Committee has received the draft submitted by the EPE Committee with two recommendations 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. The full Council will vote on the proposals in February. The next meeting of the EPE Committee will be on Thursday, February 9 at 6:00pm at JP Licks (subsequently moved to Tuesday, February 14).

4.2. Public Service Committee: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met twice in January, on January 3 and January 23. Four issues need a vote of the JPNC:

1) [Carolyn Royce recused herself on this issue, as a close family relative does business with the applicant.] The owners of Casa Verde on Centre Street have a beer, wine and cordials license and have applied for an all-alcohol license at 711 Centre Street. If granted, they would like to transfer the existing beer, wine and cordials license to themselves as a new venture on Washington Street at the old Schell Printing location. It will be called the Brass Cat Café and be a coffee shop/lunch place during the day and would be comfort food dining after 5pm. They are happy to have alcohol served only with food. The building will keep two residential units upstairs. All residents who spoke were in support. Motion by Michael Reiskind that the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) support the petition of 711 Centre, LLC, doing business as "Casa Verde", at 711 Centre Street for a transfer of its Common Victualler 7-Day Wines and Malt w/Liqueurs License to 3399 Wash LLC, doing business as "Brass Cat Café", at 3399 Washington Street with a 12:00midnight closing time, with David Doyle as manager, with the provisos that alcohol be served only with food and no alcohol be served before 11:00am. Seconded by Kevin Rainsford. Passed 15-0-0 (1 recusal).

2) The owners of Fernandez Spa on South Street would like to sell the package store license to relatives within the Fernandez family. The proposed new owners would combine the package store at 128 South Street with the adjacent laundermat space at 132 South Street creating a new larger store with one retail room with both grocery and alcohol. It will be 80% grocery and 20% alcohol. Comments from the very large audience were positive, with no residents opposing the transfer. Motion by Michael Reiskind that the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) support the petition of Fernandez Spa Liquors Inc., doing business as "Fernandez Spa", at 128 South Street for a transfer of its Retail Package Store All Alcoholic Beverages License to JFR Fernandez, Inc., doing business as "Happy Supermarket and Spirits", at the same location with an 11:00pm closing time, with Francisco Fernandez, jr. as manager. Seconded by Kevin Rainsford. Passed 16-0-0.

3) There was also one license request from the December JPNC meeting that was passed as "Sense of the Meeting and now needs a vote to confirm. Motion by Michael Reiskind that the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council support the petition of Feruz Tairov, doing business as "Espresso Yourself", at 767 Centre Street for a Seven-Day Common Victualler License with the hours of 6:00am to 9:00pm with take-out, with Feruz Tairov as manager, with the proviso that the take-out use will stay with the current business tenant at 767 Centre Street, Feruz Tairov, doing business as "Espresso Yourself". Seconded by Kevin Rainsford. Passed 16-0-0.

4) Michael Reiskind passed out a written listing of initiatives that the Public Service Committee will concentrate on for the next two years. There were several issues under the Committee's mandate to work on Transportation, Public Safety, and Public Works. Included under Transportation was to advocate for expeditious implementation of the four pending Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) public safety multimodal projects. Motion by Michael Reiskind to approve the Public Service Committee initiatives for 2016-2018. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 16-0-0.

5) Kevin Moloney asked that the JPNC pick up on the DCR projects initiative and start by sending a letter to the Governor. Motion by Kevin Moloney to send a letter to the Governor asking that DCR expeditiously implement the four pending public safety multimodal projects in Jamaica Plain. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 16-0-0. Since the Committee met twice in January, there will be no February meeting. The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be on March 7 at 7:00pm at Curtis Hall.

4.3. Zoning Committee (ZC): Committee Chair Dave Baron reported that the Zoning Committee met on January 4 only; there was no meeting on January 18. One matter was considered and needs a vote by the JPNC: 76 Stonley Road, a request by Bryan Austin and Lucio Trabucco, for demolition of existing structure and construction of a new multi-family residential structure containing 28 residential units and 23 parking spaces. In

response to the community, the developers reduced the height and changed the shape of the building. They also will build a handicapped-accessible path open to the public connecting Stonley Road and Steadman Street. There was a good consensus achieved in neighborhood meetings by the local Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA). The developers will be giving money to the City's "Slow Streets" project and there will be four affordable units - one added at the request of SNA. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. Motion by David Baron to approve the recommendation on 76 Stonley Road. Seconded by Kevin Leary. Gert Thorn thought there were too many variances being asked for on this project. Max Glikman wanted to wait until the developers go to the Housing & Development Committee (H&DC). Carolyn Royce thought that the community process with the SNA was good and developers did not have to come to the H&DC. Passed 13-1-1 (1 left early).

One other item, the current LAZ parking lot at the corner of Washington Street/Hyde Park Avenue and Morton Street in Forest Hills (construct three new buildings (4-story, 5-story, and 6-story) with approximately 252 residential units, ground-level retail, open space, and 146 parking spaces) was only an informational presentation by Criterion Development Partners. This project is called "The Residences at Forest Hills" and has already received Article 80 approval at the BPDA.

Since the public comment period for the final BPDA Plan:JP/Rox ends tomorrow, there was a motion by Carolyn Royce to send all past ZC and H&DC letters with a brief cover letter to the BPDA as comments from the JPNC before the public comment period ends on Wednesday, January 25. Seconded by Kevin Rainsford. There was a lot of discussion on what the tone of the letters should be. Passed 12-2-1 (1 left early).

David Baron also submitted a draft letter to the editor of the Jamaica Plain Gazette as requested at the January meeting. This letter is an attempt to alert the general community of the Zoning Committee's concerns with the proposed Plan:JP/Rox. Motion by David Baron to approve sending a letter to the editor of the Jamaica Plain Gazette. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. There was general agreement that the draft letter be edited and made shorter and punchier. Carmel Levy volunteered to help. Passed 15-0-0 (1 left early).

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be on February 1 at 7:00pm at Farnsworth House. On the agenda will be 25 Amory Street and 20R Spring Park Avenue.

4.4. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Carolyn Royce reported that the Housing & Development Committee met on January 17 at the Bowditch School. The H&DC is considering drawing up a list of initiatives to concentrate on, perhaps renewing the City Policy on Housing and a Good Jobs Policy. The January 18 final community meeting on Plan:JP/Rox was well-attended.

The next meeting of the H&DC will be on Tuesday, February 21 at 7pm at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street (subsequently moved to Thursday, February 23 at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street). On the agenda will be discussion of the future actions of the Community Planning Committee for the Arborway Yard (CPCAY).

5. New Business: None.

6. Adjournment: Motion by Carolyn Royce to adjourn the January 2017 JPNC meeting. Passed 15-0-0 (1 left early). The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind.

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

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