

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
June 24, 2014 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Kevin Moloney, Gerard O'Connor, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Anita Cooper, Benjamin Day, Bernard Doherty, Dana Gonsalves, Jamey Lionette, Mike O'Connor, Joseph Pendarvis, Carolyn Royce, Kyle D. Smith, and Gert Thorn.

Other attendees: Martha Heath, Giannalda Fontana, Franklyn Salimbene, Bill Reyelt, Sarah Borgeson, Deanna Keene, Tess Pope, Melisande Pope, Curtis Woodcock, Alan Smith, Ralph Walton, Tim Reardon, Mary Hickie, Dorothy Farrell, Rachel Mutschler, Constance Cervone, Tim McKenna, Judy Anthony, Pamela Smith, Liana Poston (Rep. Liz Malia's Office) and Chris Helms (Jamaica Plain News).

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm by Kevin Moloney at Farnsworth House.

I. Introductions: Members introduced themselves.

II. Announcements: There were no announcements this month.

III. Approval of minutes: Motion by Michael Reiskind to approve the May 27, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Gert Thorn. Passed 12-0-1 (1 late).

IV. Appointment of Community members to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects: The Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects may have up to 15 members. It presently has 5 members from the JPNC (Kyle Smith, Bernie Doherty, Kristy Nardone, Anne Barrett, and Mike O'Connor) plus the three ex-officio officers (Kevin Moloney, Jerry O'Connor and Michael Reiskind). Jerry O'Connor is the interim chair. It needs to add up to 10 community members. Nineteen community folks have sent in their names to Jerry O'Connor in nomination: Deanna Keene, Dottie Farrell, Tess Pope, Martha Heath, Matt Shuman, Rachel Mutschler, Curtis Woodcock, Giannalda Fontana, Emmett Schaefer, Noah Snyder, Mary Hickie, Bill Reyelt, Tobias Johnson, Sarah Buermann, Steve Dudley, Eric Gordon, Craig Panzer, Judy Anthony, and Marie Turley. At the meeting, Dottie Farrell withdrew her name from consideration and Tim Reardon offered his name in nomination. The candidates were asked to speak briefly and Deanna Keene, Tess Pope, Martha Heath, Rachel Mutschler, Curtis Woodcock, Giannalda Fontana, Noah Snyder, Mary Hickie, Bill Reyelt, Eric Gordon, Judy Anthony, and Tim Reardon spoke. Kevin Moloney spoke on behalf of Marie Turley and Liana Poston spoke on behalf of Sarah Buermann. Members commented on the high level of qualifications of the candidates for the Committee. Dave Baron spoke about how committees usually sort themselves out and after discussion decide on their own make-up. Motion by Dave Baron to table the naming of members of the Ad-Hoc Committee until the Committee sorts itself out in a natural way and brings its own slate to the JPNC. Seconded by Ben Day. Jerry O'Connor thought a formal vote today was needed. The motion failed 6-7-1.

Ballots were handed out and the JPNC voted for members of the Ad-Hoc Committee. Elected were:

Deanna Keene	28 Wenham Street	Noah Snyder	44 Hampstead Road, JP
Tess Pope	84 Wenham Street, JP	Mary Hickie	20 Martinwood Road, JP
Martha Heath	42 Bourne Street, JP	Bill Reyelt	121 Chestnut Street, Brookline, MA 02445
Rachel Mutschler	Paul Gore Street, JP	Judy Anthony	83 Woodlawn Street, JP
Curtis Woodcock	29 Yale Terrace, JP	Tim Reardon	18 Beethoven Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Motion by Mike O'Connor to appoint Jerry O'Connor chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 14-0-0.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Public Service Committee: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee had met in June on June 3 and at that time had considered and recommended extending the Green Line to Hyde Square. Mr. Reiskind introduced Franklyn Salimbene, a Board Member of the Arborway Committee, to give a presentation to the JP Neighborhood Council. Mr. Salimbene focused on four factors: 1) the need for improved transit infrastructure along South Huntington Avenue in view of its designation by the Boston Redevelopment Authority as a "development corridor;" 2) the need to provide improved access to Hyde Square businesses and the institutions along South Huntington and the concomitant need to provide residents and workers easy access into the central subway downtown; 3) the need to assure that the E-branch will not be cut back at Brigham Circle; the MBTA has twice attempted to do this, in 1999 and again in 2012; 4) the effect that a Green Line extension would act as a catalyst for a "complete street" design for South Huntington Avenue that truly advances alternatives to automobile use in Jamaica Plain. Gert Thorn said that this issue should have been brought forward by the City's planning agency. Hyde Square businesses in the audience came in support and Mt. Pleasant Home and Sherrill House are on record in support. Sarah Borgeson, speaking on behalf of the director of Sherrill House, Patrick Stapleton, said the Green Line was good for their employees and visitors. There were questions on the cost of restoration - less that rebuilding just one heavy rail station on the Blue Line - and whether improved transit service would raise rents. Constance Cervone

spoke in favor saying it would reduce the number of cars coming into JP and we need to expand light rail as far as we can take it. Motion by Michael Reiskind to support the concept of extending the Green Line to the Hyde Square area. Seconded by Jerry O'Connor. Passed 12-2-0.

The Public Service Committee met on June 3 at Curtis Hall. The Committee will be continuing the discussion of bicycle accommodation on Centre and South Streets and new art projects such as murals in JP at its next meeting. The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, July 1 at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street at 7:00pm.

b. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Jamey Lionette reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 19 at The Brewery. Leslie Bos of the JPNDP gave a presentation on the technical terms of affordable housing. - There was a report from City Life/Vida Urbana of a concerning foreclosure/land grab by City Realty Group of five commercial tenants at 3152-3160 Washington Street (corner of Chilcott Place). It has not happened yet. - A Heath Street parcel and the State of Our Neighborhood were also discussed.

The next meeting of the H&DC will be Thursday, July 15 at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street at 6:30pm.

c. Environment, Parks and Energy Committee (EPE): Anita Cooper reported that the Environment, Parks and Energy Committee met on June 9. The Committee is still small. They will invite JPNC members and neighborhood groups to present topics, then choose a major issue to concentrate on.

The next meeting of the EPE will be on Monday, July 14 at 6:30pm at the John F. Kennedy School.

d. Zoning Committee: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met at Farnsworth House on June 18. There are five requests that need a vote of the JP Neighborhood Council: 1) 3 Meehan Place, a request by George Morancy (as agent for the owner, Jimmy Arroyo) to construct a new 2 1/2-storey addition on an existing single-family dwelling, change the occupancy from single-family to two-family dwelling. The building plans have changed to turn the building to face Brookside Avenue Ext. The large parking lot will become three tandem spaces and the rest will become green space. There were concerns from the neighbors about privacy, leading to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with further discussions. The Zoning Committee recommends approval subject to a MOU to be worked out with neighbors at 148 Brookside Avenue about the window configuration and privacy, buffering and landscaping, and providing that the remainder of the paved lot on Brookside (apart from the new parking area for 3 cars) be converted to green space. 2) 5 Nira Avenue, a request by Kevin Twohig (as agent for the owner, John Rush) to construct a new single-family house. This issue was very contentious the first time it came to the Zoning Committee. The residents of 3 Nira Avenue were concerned about privacy. The developer has moved the building away from 3 Nira. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 3) 34 John A. Andrew Street, a request by Jeremy and Jennifer Redburn to extend living space into the basement. The issue was not very controversial. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 4) 66 Wyman Street, a request by Richard Asch (as agent for the owner, Paul Enever) for a total renovation of four floors of an existing two-family building to create two 2-level condominium units, install new systems, construct a rear three-story deck with stairs, install rear dormer, partially finish basement, and create three new off-street parking spaces and driveway. The off-street parking was the main issue discussed. Nobody came to oppose. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 5) 233 Pond Street, a request by Charles Brown and Marni Centor to demolish an existing brick stoop and erect an enclosed unheated vestibule with an extended porch over a landing and new granite steps. Dave Baron felt that this issue did not need a Zoning Committee neighborhood hearing after the Jamaica Hills Association approved. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. Kevin Moloney asked to have 3 Meehan Place and 5 Nira Avenue each considered separately. Motion by David Baron to accept the recommendations of the Zoning Committee on 34 John A.

Andrew Street, 66 Wyman Street and 233 Pond Street. Seconded by Mike O'Connor. Passed 13-0-0 (1 left early).

David Baron spoke further in favor of 3 Meehan Place. He said that the residents wanted the developer to defer until November, but the residents would like the building to be developed eventually. Bernie Doherty said the lot is still too tight for the proposal, and Jerry O'Connor said he will vote for the recommendation. Motion by David Baron to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Committee on 3 Meehan Place, subject to the MOU language. Seconded by Kyle Smith. Passed 8-4-1 (1 left early). Motion by David Baron to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Committee on 5 Nira Avenue. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 8-3-2 (1 left early).

The next meetings of the Zoning Committee will take place on Wednesday, July 2 and Wednesday, July 16 at 7:00pm at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street.

VIII. Old/New Business: Jerry O'Connor said that the next meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects will be called for after July 4.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.
Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, July 29 at 7:00PM, at Farnsworth House
Next Executive Committee meeting: Monday, July 21 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street