

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
May 27, 2014 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Kevin Moloney, Gerard O'Connor, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Anne Barrett, Dana Gonsalves, Mike O'Connor, Joseph Pendarvis, Daniel Perez Lacera, Martha Rodriguez, Carolyn Royce, and Jeffrey Wiesner.

Elected at the meeting: Kristy Nardone.

Other attendees: Martha Heath, Sarah Freeman, Giannalda Fontana, Esther Kohn, Mary Hickie, Dorothy Farrell, Leila Quinn, Matt Shuman, Giovanni Valencia, Helen Matthews, Henry Cohen (City Councillor Michelle Wu's Office), Michael Baker (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez' Office), and Chris Helms (Jamaica Plain News).

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm by Kevin Moloney at Farnsworth House.

I. Introductions: Members introduced themselves.

II. Change to the Agenda: Motion by Gerard O'Connor to amend the agenda to vote on and adopt a new draft Resolution on the ad-hoc Forest Hills Development Committee. Essentially, the new resolution changes the third paragraph by removing some language. Seconded by Michael Reiskind. Passed 10-0-1 (1 late). The passed resolution is appended at the end of these minutes.

III. Announcements:

- The signature campaign to put an expanded Bottle Bill on the ballot in November 2014 has gained more than the needed 22,000. It now goes to be certified in the cities and towns.

IV. Approval of minutes: Motion by Martha Rodriguez to approve the April 2014 minutes. Seconded by David Baron. Passed 11-0-0 (1 late).

V. Election of new member: The Council next considered the matter of filling the one Council vacancy in Area A. Kristy Nardone, a 15-year resident of JP who lives on Eliot Place, said that it is important that Jamaica Plain has a voice, because it is unique and diverse. Leila Quinn, a resident of Chilcott Place and been involved with Generation Citizen said that she is especially interested in joining the Housing & Development Committee. After ballots were handed out, filled out and counted, it was announced that Kristy Nardone was elected. Ms. Nardone took her position on the JPNC.

VI. Appointment of Council members to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects: The Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects needs to have an interim chair and a Council members named to it. The Committee can then announce the open meetings and advertise the agendas. The Committee may have up to 15 members, plus the three ex-officio officers; up to 5 may be on the JPNC and up to 10 may be community members. Bernie Doherty has declined to serve as chair, but Kyle Smith has said that he would do it. Members volunteering to be on the Committee were Kyle Smith, Bernie Doherty, Kristy Nardone, Anne Barrett, and Mike O'Connor. Motion by David Baron to appoint these five volunteers to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects. Seconded by Kevin Moloney. Passed 13-0-0. Members were reminded that the Committee is subject to the same rules as all subcommittees; all meetings are open to the public and advertised in advance.

VII. Committee Reports:

a. Zoning Committee: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met twice at Farnsworth House, on May 7 and May 21. There are three requests that need a vote of the JP Neighborhood Council: 1) 406-408 So. Huntington Avenue, a request by Andres Gutierrez (as agent for the owner, Vasallo Limited Liability Company) to change the legal occupancy to permit a massage therapist, no work to be done. There already is a chiropractor in the same building. The Zoning Committee recommends approval with the proviso that the variance stays with the same business owner. 2) 2 Jamaica Place, a request by Jonathan Foley (as agent for the owners, Jonathan Rensburg and Meeta Patel) to extend the living space into the basement of Unit #1. The unit is mostly above grade. There needs to be a second means of egress. Their family is expanding and they need extra space. This is a unique situation. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 3) 39 Spring Park Avenue, a request by Lisa Lewis and Leroy Johnson to enclose an existing three-season porch and include in kitchen renovations, renovate the existing kitchen and dining room. This rear porch is practically enclosed already. Motion by David Baron to accept the recommendations of the Zoning Committee on 406-408 So. Huntington Avenue, 2 Jamaica Place, and 39 Spring Park Avenue. Seconded by Mike O'Connor. Passed 13-0-0.

The next meetings of the Zoning Committee will take place on Wednesday, June 4 (may be cancelled) and Wednesday, June 18 at 7:00pm at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street.

b. Public Service Committee: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on May 6 at Curtis Hall. On the agenda were consideration of extending the Green Line to Hyde Square, bicycle accommodation on

Centre and South Streets, and a resolution on Centre and South Streets planning. The Committee voted to endorse the extension of the Green Line to Hyde Square. This will be coming to the full Council at its June meeting. A resolution on comprehensive Centre and South Streets planning was discussed at the May Public Service Committee meeting.

Motion by Michael Reiskind to recommend approval of the resolution on development of a comprehensive plan for the revitalization of the streetscape of Centre and South Streets and the request for a meeting with the Mayor and Councillors to obtain funding. Seconded by Dana Gonsalves. The importance of the design of the sidewalk and furniture was brought up. Passed 13-0-0. The Centre and South Streets resolution is appended at the end of these minutes.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, June 3 at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street at 7:00pm. On the agenda will be ways of improving bicycle safety and education on Centre and South Streets, new art projects such as murals in Jamaica Plain, as well as continued discussion of the City's planning effort for Centre and South Streets.

c. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): The Housing and Development Committee reported that the CPCAY (Community Planning Committee for the Arborway Yard) had an informational meeting on April 30. There was lots of good information presented. Allan Ihrer outlined his proposal to move the MBTA Arborway Yard to a site on American Legion Highway.

Giovanny Valencia, Assistant Director of Community Planning & Leadership Development at the JP Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC), gave his ideas for an experiment: a series of speakers, jointly sponsored by the JPNDC and the H&DC, on housing and tenants' rights. The JPNDC is organizing and doing its own research to learn, strategize and take action before the next State of Our Neighborhood.

The next meeting of the H&DC will be Thursday, June 19 at The Brewery, 31 Germania Street at 6:30pm. Leslie Bos of the JPNDC will discuss the basics and complexities of "Affordable Housing" and all the baffling terminology.

d. Environment, Parks and Energy Committee: The newly formed Environment, Parks and Energy Committee will have its next meeting on Monday, June 9 at 6:30pm at the John F. Kennedy School, 7 Bolster Street. They plan on meeting every second Monday of the month.

VIII. Old/New Business:

- Daniel Perez Lacera said that there will be a celebration for Laura Foner's eighteen years of service as the children's librarian at the Connolly Branch Library. It will be on Monday, June 9 at 6:00pm at the library, 413 Centre Street.

Motion by Daniel Perez Lacera to have the JPNC write a letter of appreciation on the impending retirement of Laura Foner. Seconded by Gerard O'Connor. Passed 13-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, June 24 at 7:00PM, at Farnsworth House

Next Executive Committee meeting: Monday, June 16 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street

Resolution on Forest Hills Development (as passed May 27, 2014)

Since there are numerous transportation, public safety, development and zoning issues confronting residents and users of, and businesses in, the Forest Hills area; and,

Since these issues arise amidst the sometimes conflicting interests of MassDOT, DCR, the MBTA, relevant city of Boston departments, the BRA and the residents and users of, and businesses in, the Forest Hills area;

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC), relying on both its Housing & Development and Zoning Committees, shall hereby create an ad-hoc committee for the purposes of:

1. Seeking that the residents and businesses of the Forest Hills community are aware and informed of the magnitude of the construction projects going forward in their neighborhood;
2. Seeking that the elected officials representing the Forest Hills area are aware of, and knowledgeable about, the existing and proposed construction projects, their time lines and their potential impacts on the community;
3. Making sure that the relevant state and city departments and agencies responsible for, or having jurisdiction over, these projects are reviewing the project plans and communicating and coordinating with each other;
4. Seeking that satisfactory procedures are in place to address problems and issues as they arise; and,
5. Seeking that a regular community input process be established to address concerns of the residents and businesses of the Forest Hills community.

Resolution on Centre and South Streets (from the Public Service Committee)

Resolved that the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council supports the development of a comprehensive plan for the revitalization of the Streetscape of Centre and South Streets from Jackson Square Station to Forest Hills Station, to be developed in concert with the current design effort being implemented by the Boston Transportation Department for Hyde and Jackson Squares.

We further move to meet with the Mayor and our elected City Councilors to solicit their support and action to gain the necessary funding to move the initial Concept Study of 2010 into the Schematic Design Phase, and their continued support of a comprehensive Centre and South Streets Streetscape Revitalization Plan.