

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
July 30, 2013 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Red Burrows, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Erin Colgan-Snyder, Dana Gonsalves, Andrea Howley, Jamey Lionette, Martha Rodriguez, Jen Rogers, Natalie VanLandingham, Jesse White, and Jeffrey Wiesner.
Community Attendance: Bernard Doherty, Pamela Judge, Jordan Ferguson (Mike Ross for Mayor Campaign), City Councillor Charles Yancey, Ernest “Duke” Bennett (Office of City Councillor Charles Yancey), Charlotte Golar Richie, Bill Walczak, Michael Baker (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez’s office), and Bret Silverberg (Jamaica Plain Patch).

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by Red Burrows at the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain.

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

II. Announcements:

- There will be a Mayoral Candidates Forum on Tuesday, August 6 at 5:30pm at Josiah Quincy School, 885 Washington Street. Led by Right to the City Boston and Boston Tenant Coalition.
- Hubway locations are coming soon. They have been tentatively proposed for seven locations in Jamaica Plain: Forest hills under the overpass, Whole Foods bus stop, Jackson Square at SW Corridor Park, Ace Hardware on Centre Street, Stony Brook or Green Street Stations, Egleston Square on Atherton Street, South Street near Sedgwick Street. People can send their ideas on locations to CoUrbanize.com.
- Ernest Bennett spoke about the City of Boston’s new Rental Registration and Inspection Program. Under a new ordinance, all private residential rental unit owners had to register their units by August 1. The new deadline has been extended to August 31. He said that the ordinance was not written or communicated in a beneficial way. Councillor Yancey will be having a public hearing on this issue in August (subsequently moved to September 16, then moved to Thursday, September 26).
- The Lorber Family Playground in Jackson Square at the Southwest Corridor Park is hosting Thursday Family Nights every Thursday from August 8 to August 29 from 4pm to 6pm.
- Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) are hosting a “Hot Dog Night” every Tuesday this summer at the Bromley-Heath housing development management office, 30 Bickford Street.
- The 8th annual Back to School Jam at the Bromley-Heath housing development will be on Monday, August 12.
- There will be a Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group (DAG) Meeting on Thursday, August 8 at 6:00pm at English High School.

III. Approval of minutes: Motion by David Baron to approve the June 2013 minutes. Seconded by Andrea Howley. Passed 11-0-1.

IV. Mayoral Candidates Presentations: City Councillor Charles Yancey spoke about his thirty years in elective office: he helped pass a 1984 ordinance against free cigarette samples in Boston, and disinvestment in South Africa. He helped build two community centers, a police station and a library. He emphasized that Boston Public Schools needs a new high school - there are 18,000 high school students and only 14,000 high school seats. He also spoke about public safety and economic development. Questions from members were on parks, urban agriculture, affordable housing, education and public safety.

Charlotte Golar Richie spoke about her twenty years experience - three terms as a state representative and eight years as chief of the City’s Department of Neighborhood Development (DND). She also headed the City’s Main Streets program which helped open up the City. She worked with community groups to permit or start 18,00 units of new housing, 1/3 of which was affordable. Questions from members were on parks, neighborhood councils, public safety, affordable housing, education, and elder services - especially in transportation.

Bill Walczak came late and spoke after the meeting about his thirty-four years experience as founder of Codman Square Health Center and president of Carney Hospital.

V. Candidates Vacancies: Red Burrows repeated that the JP Neighborhood Council has three vacancies: one each in Area A, Area C and At-Large. One nomination was forthcoming at this meeting: Bernard Doherty, from the Asticou Martinwood South Neighborhood Association (AMSNA), was nominated for Area C.

VI. Committee Reports:

- a. Zoning: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met three times, on June 27, July 11 and July 25. There were four items that need a vote of the JPNC: 1) 356 Arborway, a request by Daniel Jay for a variance to create two off-street parking spaces in the front yard. The owner bought the house with the two spaces already built. The spaces are actually off Hampstead and the design is similar to most houses in this area. The Committee recommends approval. 2) 162-172 South Street, a request by Kenia Salazar (acting as agent for the owner, Calisir Gulizar) for a change in non-conforming use to change the occupancy from three offices, store and restaurant to three offices, restaurant and beauty salon. Kenia Salazar will be the tenant and has experience operating beauty salons. The layout is good and the neighbors were in favor. The Committee recommends approval. 3) 36 Greenough Avenue, a request by Jil Clark for

an extension of a non-conforming use to construct a one-storey addition with crawl space in the rear of the existing structure, construct a bay window and construct a roof deck on the addition. The plans have changed and the deck will not be built. This was contentious and returned to the Zoning Committee for a second meeting. The applicant has agreed to three provisos: no heavy equipment to access via shared driveway, no trees to be removed, and the hours of construction to be Mon.-Fri. 8am-4:30pm. The Sumner Hill Association (SHA) voted to support. The Committee recommends approval with three provisos. 4) 127 Chestnut Avenue/114 Paul Gore Street, a request by Kostas Argyropoulos for a change of occupancy to permit an exercise studio. This is a long-standing boxing studio in a garage, with Mr. Argyropoulos charging for his services. There was a tremendous amount of support. No work is to be done. The Committee recommends approval. Motion by Andrea Howley to recommend approval of the four requests at 356 Arborway, 162-172 South Street, 36 Greenough Avenue with three provisos, and 127 Chestnut Avenue/114 Paul Gore Street. Seconded by Jen Rogers. Passed 12-0-0.

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be Thurs., Aug. 8 at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street, at 7:00pm.

b. Public Service: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on July 2 at Curtis Hall. On the agenda was a list of Jamaica Plain streets that are scheduled for resurfacing this season; JP Shines, the new anti-litter campaign; and the proposed Hubway locations in Jamaica Plain.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, August 6 at Curtis Hall at 7:00pm. On the agenda will be a request of Bukhara at 701 Centre Street for a change in its beer & wine license to add the serving of liqueurs, and a request of American Legion Post #76 at 280 South Street for a change in manager.

c. Parks & Open Space (POSC): Andrea Howley said that the POSC did not meet in July.

The POSC is asking for the JPNC to join the Boston Park Advocates, a network of park-connected groups across the city. On August 16, they will host the first mayoral forum on parks and open space. No endorsement will be made. Motion by Andrea Howley that the JP Neighborhood Council join the Boston Park Advocates as a sponsoring group. Seconded by Natalie VanLandingham. Michael Reiskind asked whether the group will be balanced in its advocacy, especially in issues such as trade-offs between open space and affordable housing. Bernie Doherty mentioned the new design for Shea Circle, which he thought was a bad Parks Department decision. Passed 12-0-0.

d. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Jamey Lionette reported that the H&DC did not meet in July. The next meeting of the H&DC will be on Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30pm at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street. The Hughes Oil site, a 289-unit development at 3593 Washington Street, will be discussed.

e. Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group (DAG): Bernard Doherty, from AMSNA, spoke about the new proposed design for the exit of buses from the upper busway of Forest Hills T station. He said that the exit is to be moved further south and will aim right at Asticou Road. In addition, the Route 39 bus will be moved to the upper busway and this will entail a major expansion of the area with a third lane of buses added to the upper busway. This design for the upper busway is a disaster because it will add noise and lights to Asticou Road. The planners proposed mitigation is to add a wall screening Asticou from the busway, but it blocks only the light, not the noise. No environmental study has been done on this design. Mr. Doherty also added that he could not understand how MassDOT could be using State Accelerated Bridge Program funds for an MBTA project. He asked for a motion to put stop this proposal and improve the upper busway exit design. Motion by Red Burrows that the JPNC send a letter to elected officials saying that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation proposal for the upper busway exit at Asticou Road is unacceptable. Seconded by Jesse White. Passed 9-0-1 (2 left early).

f. Jackson Square Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC): *No report.*

g. Ad-Hoc Elections Committee: Red Burrows reported that the Elections Committee met on July 22 and came up with a timeline, flyer and candidates packet for the bi-annual JPNC Election on Saturday, October 19. Motion by Red Burrows to change the Ombuds Board to Kevin Moloney, Karley Ausiello, Pam Bender, and Kosta Demos. Seconded by Dave Baron. Passed 12-0-0. Motion by Dave Baron to accept the timeline as submitted. Seconded by Red Burrows. Passed 12-0-0. The Committee is now proposing that the Forest Hills poll be at the Forest Hills T Station. Andrea Howley asked if the Forest Hills poll could be outside the station to give the poll more visibility. The next meeting of the Elections Committee will be on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30pm at the Dogwood Café.

VII. Old/New Business: none

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

**Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00PM, at the First Baptist Church
(Subsequently changed to Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00PM, at Curtis Hall)**

**Next Executive Committee meeting: Wednesday, July 24 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street
(Subsequently changed to Tuesday, September 24 at 6:00PM at JP Licks)**

