

**Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council**  
**October 27, 2015 Minutes**

**JPNC Attendance:** Kevin Moloney, Gerard O'Connor, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Anne Barrett, Anita Cooper, Bernard Doherty, Dana Gonsalves, Jamey Lionette, Kristy Nardone, Carolyn Royce, Kyle Smith, Gert Thorn, Jeffrey Wiesner, Meg Wood, Sebastian Zapata.

**Other attendees:** Andrew Baldizon (City Councillor Matt O'Malley's Office), Joshua McFadden (Office of State Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez), Emily Resnevic (JP Gazette), and Richard Heath (JP News).

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Kevin Moloney at Farnsworth House.

**I. Introductions:** Members introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of September minutes:** Motion by David Baron to approve the September 22, 2015 minutes as submitted. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 11-0-3 (2 late).

**III. Announcements:**

- Tuesday, November 3 is Election Day. Voting will be from 7:00am to 8:00pm.
- The 12th annual Canine Costume Parade will be on Saturday, October 31 starting at 12noon from the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, 633 Centre Street.
- The annual Halloween Stroll Trick or Treat will take place in the Centre/South Streets business district on October 31 from 3:00pm-6:00pm. Sponsored by the Jamaica Plain Business & Professional Association.
- The annual Octoberfest ¡Fiesta! fundraiser at The Brewery will be on Thursday, October 29 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- The second public workshop for PLAN:JP/ROX, the planning study of the Washington Street corridor, will be on Wednesday, November 4 at the English High School Cafeteria from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
- Kyle Smith reported that there is a new Jamaica Plain chapter of the professional networking group BNI getting started. It meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00am at Farnsworth House. You can contact Kyle Smith at [kyle.david.smith@me.com](mailto:kyle.david.smith@me.com) for more information.

**IV. Consideration of absent JPNC members:** At last month's JPNC meeting, it was voted to consider for removal (according to Article 12 of the JPNC By-Laws) the following members of the JPNC because of their lack of attendance: Martha Rodriguez (Area A), Erin Colgan-Snyder (Area B), Gerard O'Connor (Area B), and Mike O'Connor (Area C). Kevin Moloney reported that certified mail notices were sent to them saying they are being considered for removal. Martha Rodriguez, Erin Colgan-Snyder, and Mike O'Connor have not responded to Mr. Moloney. Gerard O'Connor is in attendance today. He apologized and promised to faithfully attend in the future. Jeffrey Wiesner said he received an e-mail from Martha Rodriguez saying she thought she had resigned by e-mail earlier in 2015. Motion by David Baron to accept the resignation of, or remove from the JPNC, the following members: Martha Rodriguez (Area A), Erin Colgan-Snyder (Area B), and Mike O'Connor (Area C). Seconded by Dana Gonsalves. Passed 16-0-0. Motion by Bernard Doherty to accept the apology of Gerard O'Connor (Area B) and retain him as a JPNC member. Seconded by Dana Gonsalves. Passed 16-0-0.

**V. Committee Reports:**

- a. Public Service Committee:** Michael Reiskind reported that the Committee met on October 6. There were no neighborhood hearings. The Committee discussed how to start a program for recycling of cigarette butts in the City to control litter and reduce environmentally-hazardous waste ending up in storm sewers or street tree mulch. Salem, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine have programs in place. Cigarette butts make up 38 percent of street litter - by item count. There was also discussion on how to remove billboards in the Jamaica Plain business districts. The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00pm at Bethel AME Church. On the agenda will be two neighborhood hearings: a request by Grass Fed for a second location with an all-alcohol license at 3698 Washington Street in Forest Hills, and a request by Pink Samurai for a dumpling restaurant with a beer, wine and liqueurs license at 658 Centre Street.
- b. Election Committee:** Kevin Moloney reported that the ad-hoc Elections Committee did not meet in October. The plan is to meet again soon.
- c. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC):** Jamey Lionette reported that the H&DC met on October 20 at the Bowditch School. Discussed were some recent community meetings attended: the first was a Massachusetts Department of Transportation "Capital Conversation", at English High School on November 19. This was a community meeting to gather input on projects for the five-year Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2017-2021. There are seven state parcels of land coming up for bids in Jamaica Plain. The future plans for the Arborway Yard were brought up at the session by the community. Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack had no knowledge of the long-agreed-on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Carolyn Royce pressed the issue and the JPNC has been invited to send a delegation to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Fiscal and Management Control Board. As a result, Rep. Liz Malia promised to bring the details to the State's and City's

attention. It was reported at the JPNC meeting that the House of Representatives' Boston Delegation has met and discussed the Arborway Yard and a letter from them will be sent to Secretary Pollack and Governor Baker. The next meetings were a series of Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) meetings on Arborway Access Improvements. There were three meetings to consider plans at Perkins Street, along the Arborway and in the Centre Street Corridor.

The Community Planning Committee for the Arborway Yard (CPCAY) is presently gathering reaffirmations from the neighborhood groups which had been part of the coalition that formed the CPCAY.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects met with Governor Baker's deputy chief of staff. The Committee was asked to list the nearby development parcels that the community is concerned about for a follow-up meeting. The Committee has sent the State officials a copy of the Arborway Yard MOU. Gert Thorn said that the State should gather their own list of state-owned development parcels in Forest Hills. Bernie Doherty said he hoped that decision makers come to a future JPNC meeting to discuss the issues.

The H&DC now has one vacancy of a Neighborhood Council member.

The next meeting of the H&DC will be on Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30pm at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street. On the agenda will be the proposals for 125 Amory Street and Goddard House at 201 So. Huntington Avenue.

**d.** Environment, Parks and Energy Committee (EPE): No report.

**e.** Zoning Committee (ZC): David Baron reported that the Committee met on October 7. There is only one item that needs a vote of the JPNC: 25 Chestnut Avenue, a request by Arthur Choo to renovate a three-family dwelling and extend living space into basement. This applicant had come before the ZC previously and was denied, because they had not improved the basement. They came back in October with a better design that included a full-size door onto a patio and knock-out windows. The Zoning Committee recommends approval.

One other matter does not need a vote because it was already approved at the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA):

18 Rockwood Terrace, a request by James J. Deveney to erect a second-floor addition per plans.

There was also an informational presentation by the JPND and Back of The Hill CDC on the General Heath Square Apartments project. This is at New Heath and Bromley Streets. This is a 47-unit 100% affordable project at deeply affordable levels. Included is community space and a small amount of commercial space. Discussion centered on the low parking ratio of .43 parking spaces/unit (20 spaces). The financing information was the most interesting part of the presentation; it will take more than a year to get financing. There was also discussion about the front paved plaza and lack of green space. The sense was that folks at the meeting were happy with the project.

Motion by David Baron to accept the one recommendation of the ZC on 25 Chestnut Avenue. Seconded by Bernard Doherty. Passed 15-0-1.

The Zoning Committee now has two vacancies of Neighborhood Council members.

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be on Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00pm at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street. On the agenda will be the proposals for 3381R Washington Street and Brookside Avenue/19 Union Avenue.

## **VI. Old/New Business:**

- Vacancies: The JP Neighborhood Council now has three vacancies, one in Area A, one in Area B, and one in Area C. Members are encouraged to reach out and recruit candidates to fill the vacancies.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.**

*Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind*

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

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