

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
November 26, 2013 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Ben Day, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Anne Barrett, Jamey Lionette, Kevin Moloney, Gerard O'Connor, Martha Rodriguez, Carolyn Royce.

Community Attendance: Anita Cooper, Gert Thorn, Michael Cohen, Dana Gonsalves, Sarah Freeman, Helen Matthews, Dorothy Farrell, Mick Jacobs, Michael Baker (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez' Office), and Jullianne Doherty

(Mayors Office of Neighborhood Services).

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Ben Day at the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain.

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

II. Changes to Agenda: It was asked that a discussion of the JPNC website and agendas be added to tonight's agenda.

III. Announcements:

- The Mayor's JP Holiday Trolley Tour & Tree Lighting will be on Saturday, December 7 at 1:30pm at the Soldier's Monument, Centre and South Streets. It will also be at the Hyde Square rotary, Centre and Perkins and Day Streets at 2:15pm.

- The first annual Turkey Trot 5K Road Race will be at Franklin Park on Thanksgiving Day, November 28 from 8:30am-10:30am. Meet at the William J. Devine Golf Clubhouse.

- There will be a lecture and panel discussion of the newly published "The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Volume VII, The Early Boston Years, 1882-1890" on Monday, December 2 at 6:30pm at the Weld Hill Research

Building of Arnold Arboretum, 1300 Centre Street. Entrance fee is \$10.

IV. Approval of minutes: Motion by Kevin Moloney to approve the October 2013 minutes. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 9-0-0.

V. Report on Kennedy School vandalism issues: Anita Cooper, Co-Chair of the John F. Kennedy School Parents Teacher Council, updated the Council on the previous damage done by dogs and vandals to the School's outdoor garden. The Boston School Department (BPS) has agreed to install an outdoor spigot for garden use, which will eliminate the issue of vandals overturning the water cistern and flooding the area. BPS has also agreed to install a motion sensor light and a push bar on a garden gate, if the Parents Teacher Council can provide the light and gate. It was suggested that Officer Michael Santry at the Jamaica Plain District E-13 police station may have extra motion

sensor lights or know where to get them.

VI. Committee Reports:

a. Public Service: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on November 5 at the Urban Edge Board Room at 1542 Columbus Avenue. On the agenda was two requests: Ruggiero's at 3317-3345 Washington Street is asking for a transfer of its all-alcoholic beverages package store license. The Ruggiero family has operated this store since 1948 and would like to sell both the business and building. Jigar Patel and Manny Patel have many years experience operating similar combination convenience/package stores in the greater Boston area, including Ashmont Market and the New Store on the Block in Dorchester. They have had no violations. They will be keeping pretty much the same operation and same name. They had a previous meeting with the nearby Union Avenue neighbors who are in support. Much of the discussion was about removing the solid security grates on the building, which the Patels agreed not to use.

Old Havana Restaurant at 349 Centre Street (the former Tacos El Charro space) is asking for a new beer & wine license. There was a lot of support for this applicant. The previous restaurant, Tacos El Charro, had operated with a beer and wine license but sold the alcohol license a few months before selling the restaurant business to Juana Tejeda and Sixto Lopez, husband and wife. Ms. Tejeda and Mr. Lopez said that there will be no live entertainment at the restaurant, and they will think about not using the security grate and will permanently remove it in the future. Motion by Kevin Moloney to recommend approval of the request for a transfer of the all-alcoholic beverages package store license at 3317-3345 Washington Street from Ruggiero's Market, Inc. to Jamaica Plain Market Inc., doing business as "Ruggiero's Market", with Jigar Patel as manager; and also to recommend approval of the request of Juana Tejeda, doing business as "Old Havana Restaurant", for a 7-day common victualler beer & wine license at 349 Centre Street, with Sixto Lopez as manager with the proviso that alcohol be served with food only and that there will be no bar. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 9-0-0.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, December 3 at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street at 7:00pm. On the agenda will be a request from Coco's Lounge at 3169-3175 Washington Street for an entertainment

license for live performers and dancing by patrons, a request from Canary Square at 435 So. Huntington Avenue Street for changes related to its outdoor patio, and a request from Centre Street Café to transfer its beer & wine

license.

b. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Jamey Lionette reported that the H&DC met on November 19. The Committee is still looking for new members. The criteria and definitions of AMI - Area Median Income - were discussed. The Committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street.

The next meeting of the H&DC will be on December 17.

c. Parks & Open Space (POSC): The Committee needs a new Chair. The Committee meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm at JP Licks, 659 Centre Street. POSC member Sarah Freeman reported that the Committee had two major conflicts and did not meet in November. December will be a rebuilding month. Some members of the POSC went on a drive-around of area gas leaks with Bob Ackley, a Boston University professor and gas safety expert. The Council was reminded that there are numerous gas leaks along the Arborway and they affect the roots of the trees causing significant damage. It was asked whether the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPR) or the Department of Conservation & Recreation can be urged to sue the gas companies for parks damage as Brookline Parks has. Maybe the JPNC will invite a representative from Boston Parks to speak to this issue.

The next meeting of the POSC will be on December 19.

d. Zoning: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met twice, on November 6 and November 20. There were two items that have already appeared before the Zoning Board of Appeal: 1) 21 Eliot Street, a request by Angela DePace to erect a 13'-long shed dormer addition to the third-storey of a single-family house and to convert storage space to a full bathroom. The Jamaica Pond Association voted not to oppose. The Zoning Committee recommended approval. 2) 22 Cheshire Street, a request by Beth Rosen and Pamela Cobey to demolish an existing wood deck on the rear of Unit 2 and to erect a new screened porch off the first floor with an exterior stair down to the rear yard. The neighbors at the rear loved this proposal. The Zoning Committee recommended approval. In addition, the following item was deferred because there was opposition: 251 Lamartine Street/30-32 Chestnut Square, a request by Cris Marc LLC to erect a new two-family dwelling with parking for 4 vehicles in the rear of a lot with an existing two-family dwelling, creating two dwelling structures on one lot. The existing house on the lot looks like a church. Neighbors wanted to change the new house to face Chestnut Square and change the side yard. Most neighbors felt the project was too big. The closest neighbors want no new structure at all. There will be additional community meetings with the developers and neighbors.

The following recommendation does need a vote of the JPNC: 420 Pond Street, a request by Showa Boston to add a vestibule to an existing egress. Essentially, this will be a big mud room with coat hooks for Showa students. The Jamaica Hills Association voted not to oppose. The Committee recommends approval. Motion by Kevin Moloney to recommend approval of the request at 420 Pond Street. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 9-0-0

The next meetings of the Zoning Committee will be Wed., December 4 and Wed., December 18 at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street, at 7:00pm.

e. Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group (DAG): Kevin Moloney said that the MassDOT had a public meeting on November 19 at English High. MassDOT intends to advertise the project on January 25, 2014. But MassDOT said they have a problem with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) about Shea Circle which lies within the historically protected Emerald Necklace. MassDOT proposes to change Shea Circle to a signalized intersection to be called Shea Square and has to convince MHC that there is no valid alternative. MassDOT also mentioned that the project funding is now split between the Accelerated Bridge Program and a new funding program.

MassDOT also answered questions about identifying ways to continue the community process as construction begins. There were continuing questions about traffic created by the new Casey Arborway as well as the new construction at the Commons at Forest Hills.

VII. Old/New Business:

- Nominations for new members: Ben Day officially announced that there are eight vacancies on the JP Neighborhood Council: three in Area A, one in Area B, two in Area C, and two At-Large. The process is to nominate, or self-nominate, candidates at this or the next JPNC meeting. The following people were nominated at the November meeting:

- Anita Cooper, 202 Chestnut Avenue, was self-nominated for Area B.
- Michael Cohen, 44 Round Hill Street, was self-nominated for Area A.
- Gert Thorn, 72 Robinwood Avenue, was self-nominated for Area B.
- Kaveh Riahi, 10 Wise Street, was nominated by David Baron for Area A.
- Dana Gonsalves, 35 Creighton Street, was self-nominated for Area A.

Elections will take place at the December JPNC meeting.

- Election of new officers: Nominated for Chair of the JP Neighborhood Council for one year were Kevin Moloney (by Michael Reiskind) and Michael Reiskind (by Martha Rodriguez). Michael Reiskind declined.

Nominated for Vice-Chair of the JP Neighborhood Council for one year was Gerard O'Connor (by Michael Reiskind).

Nominated for Secretary/Treasurer of the JP Neighborhood Council for one year was Michael Reiskind (by Kevin Moloney).

Motion by David Baron to elect all three nominated officers by acclamation. Seconded by Martha Rodriguez.

Passed 9-0-0.

- JPNC Website and Agendas: There was discussion on how to improve the JPNC Website. Volunteering for an Ad-Hoc Committee were Ben Day, Kevin Moloney, Jerry O'Connor and Michael Reiskind.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00PM, at the First Baptist Church

Next Executive Committee meeting: Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street