

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
July 29, 2014 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Kevin Moloney, Gerard O'Connor, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Anne Barrett, Erin Colgan-Snyder, Benjamin Day, Bernard Doherty, Jamey Lionette, Kristy Nardone, Mike O'Connor, Martha Rodriguez, Carolyn Royce, and Kyle D. Smith.

Other attendees: Bill Reyelt, Ronald Hafer, Jerry Mello, Helen Matthews, Andrew Padilla, Jean Bushnell (iTNGreater Boston), Sandra Maldonado (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez' Office), Jenifer Feeley (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez' Office), Sebastian Zapata (Rep. Liz Malia's Office), and Jullianne Doherty (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services).

Meeting called to order at 7:13pm by Kevin Moloney at Farnsworth House.

I. Introductions: Members introduced themselves.

II. Announcements: There were five announcements this month.

- Helen Mathews, an independent film maker announced "Tell Your Story", a series of video interviews with people who are struggling or who have struggled with rising housing costs in Jamaica Plain. She needs help with people to interview. She might launch a KickStarter campaign soon. Contact her at jpvideoprojects@gmail.com or at (617) 784-1731.

- The 2014 Jamaica Plain National Night Out celebration will be at the Egleston YMCA on Monday, August 4 starting at 4:30pm.

- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp. is sponsoring a "Peace and Unity Rally" on Saturday, August 16 featuring speakers from neighborhood organizations, free food, and an opportunity to meet your neighbors. The event begins at the Hyde Square rotary at 1pm and ends in Jackson Square at the T station at 3:30pm.

- There will be a community design presentation of the Centre Street edge of the Bromley-Heath Development at the Anna M. Cole Center on Lamartine Street extension on Monday, August 4 starting at 6:00pm. It will be presented by students from the Boston Architectural College and sponsored by Hyde Jackson Square Main Street.

- There will be a series of free events all this summer. Free Fun Fridays will take place every Friday from June 27 to August 29. 67 museums and cultural venues will be open for free all over Massachusetts on different Fridays. Sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation. More information at www.highlandstreet.org.

III. Approval of minutes: Motion by Kyle Smith to approve the June 24, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Kristy Nardone. Passed 11-0-2 (1 late).

IV. Presentation by iTNGreater Boston: JPNC member Erin Colgan-Snyder, who works at Ethos, introduced Jean Bushnell, president of Independent Transportation Network (iTN) Greater Boston, a transportation service for seniors. Ms. Bushnell said that iTNGreater Boston is a critical service for seniors in nineteen communities, and their efforts are to have "Ownership by the Community". When seniors get adequate transportation, it leads to more local economic power. iTN works with Ethos in this area and offers more options than The Ride. They use a mixture of volunteer and paid drivers, and one needs to be member to be carried by the service. Jamaica Plain is adding about eighteen members a month and needs more volunteer drivers. Volunteer drivers must give one hour a week, have a CORI check and a clean 3-year driving record. There were questions about what is the low-age cutoff - early twenties, and about spanish-, chinese- and vietnamese-language drivers.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects: Jerry O'Connor, chair of the Committee, reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee on Forest Hills Construction and Development Projects met twice, on Monday, July 14 and Monday, July 28. Mr. O'Connor said it was important that the Committee become the go-to group for information and a trusted planning group. It needs to be a repository and inclusive group.

- Sadly, there is one vacancy on the Committee. Bill Reyelt, who was elected last meeting, is not able to serve because he lives outside Jamaica Plain. Tobias Johnson, a member of the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) has put his name forward in nomination. Bernie Doherty thought that a representative from the local Washington Street Business Group (WSBG) would be a better choice for the Committee because business interests need to be heard on these development and construction issues. Jerry O'Connor asked that the JPNC table filling the vacancy until the Committee figures out a way to have a representative from both SNA and WSBG since they are the two of the most interested institutions in the area. Mr. O'Connor also wondered if there was any cross-membership between the two groups.

- Jerry O'Connor summarized the requests of the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association and Egleston Square Main Street. They are asking for a Washington Street corridor planning study from Forest Hills to Jackson Square to achieve coordination with all the development proposals in the area. Ben Day reminded folks that the JPNC had passed a similar resolution on June 25, 2013 (with the area from Forest Hills to Egleston Square). Bill Reyelt said

that planning guidelines from other nearby planning studies, such as the Forest Hills Planning Initiative, are very helpful when talking to developers. Motion by Jerry O'Connor to write a letter of support, on behalf of the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association and Egleston Square Main Street, for a Washington Street corridor planning study from Forest Hills to Jackson Square, subject to review of the JPNC Executive Committee. Seconded by Kyle Smith.

Passed 12-0-1 (1 late). Dave Baron asked that a draft letter be presented for consideration when these types of requests come to the JPNC.

b. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Jamey Lionette reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, July 15 at the Bowditch School. The Committee reviewed the plans for a parcel on Heath Street behind Bromley-Heath. Development is still in the very early stage.

There won't be an August H&DC meeting. The next meeting of the H&DC will be Tuesday, September 16 at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street at 6:30pm. There will be a presentation from Urban Edge Community Outreach.

c. Environment, Parks and Energy Committee (EPE): There was no Environment, Parks and Energy Committee meeting in July. Chair Anita Cooper gave birth to a baby.

The next meeting of the EPE will be on Monday, August 11 at 6:30pm at the John F. Kennedy School, 7 Bolster St.

d. Zoning Committee: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met at Farnsworth House on July 16. There are three requests that need a vote of the JP Neighborhood Council: 1) 16 and 16R Aldworth Street, a request by Virginia Stewart to demolish an existing 2-car garage and replace it with an accessory office with a roof garden, with the rebuilt structure having the same footprint but 3'6" closer to the main house. The Jamaica Pond Association does not oppose. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. Motion by David Baron to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Committee on 16 and 16R Aldworth Street. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 11-0-3. 2) 266 Lamartine Street, a request by Douglas Stefanov (as agent for the owner, Joseph Taylor) to demolish an existing building and erect a new 3-storey dwelling with six residential units and create off-street parking. This proposal has changed and is now a 4-unit structure with fewer parking spaces. The residents in the area and the developer have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and residents support the changed proposal. The Zoning Committee recommends approval subject to the MOU and to changes shown on the plans (showing 4 units, etc.). Motion by David Baron to recommend approval of the variances on 266 Lamartine Street, subject to the MOU and to changes shown on the plans (showing 4 units, etc.). Seconded by Anne Barrett. Passed 11-1-2. 3) 71 South Street/1-7 Atwood Square, a request by Peter Fenn to demolish an existing two-family building (currently used as offices) and erect a new four-family dwelling. This proposal has been changed from its previous five units to four units. It is a very crowded site, especially close along its rear and side. The residents on Atwood Square liked the newer proposed building being further from Atwood Square and the reduced number of parking spaces needed. The Zoning Committee felt that there was not a sufficient level of hardship to receive a variance. The Committee voted to recommend denial with the neighbors urging approval. Kevin Moloney said that there were also neighbors who urged denial. Anne Barrett said that Atwood Square was really not strongly on board for approval and Kyle Smith thought there was no neighbor consensus on the proposal. Bernie Doherty thought there were too many variances required. While some neighbors were involved in the process, some felt they were left out. Jerry O'Connor was troubled by the overuse of the phrase "Transit Oriented Development". Motion by David Baron to recommend denial of the variances requested on 71 South Street/1-7 Atwood Square. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 12-0-2.

The Zoning Committee may not meet in August.

e. Public Service Committee: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on July 1. The Committee continued the discussion of bicycle accommodation on Centre and South Streets and new art projects such as murals in JP. The Committee is looking at the top ten intersections for bicycle accidents in Jamaica Plain. The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00pm at Bethel AME Church, Walk Hill and Wachusett Streets. At that time, a request of Tikki Masala for a new beer and wine license at 3706 Washington Street will be considered.

VIII. Old/New Business: Ben Day is asking the JPNC to sign on to a petition of the Racial Justice and Equity Initiative which asks Mayor Walsh of the City of Boston to create a commission to reduce inequities in all City departments. This is similar to a letter that the JPNC sent to candidate Marty Walsh on October 14, 2013. Motion by Ben Day that the JPNC sign on to the Racial Justice and Equity Initiative petition. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 14-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00PM, at Farnsworth House

Next Executive Committee meeting: Monday, September 15 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street