

**Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council**  
**August 26, 2025 Minutes**

**JPNC Attendance:** Renée Stacey Welch, Bernard Doherty, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Lorenzo Bartoloni, Carla-Lisa Caliga, Nick Chaves, Peter DeCotis, Sarah Freeman, Willie Mitchell, Purple Reign, and Danielle Sommer Kieta.

**Other attendees:** Louise Johnson, Mark Freudenberger, Holly DeMelo, Kiara Mark, Alex Peselman, Scott Yates, Lissah's Phone, Sbobb, Sam's, State Representative Sam Montaña, Bonnie Delaune (Office of City Councillor Ben Weber), and Richard Heath (Boston Bulletin).

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Renée Stacey Welch.

**1. Introductions:** The members of the JP Neighborhood Council introduced themselves. Rep. Sam Montaña, the aide to City Councillor Ben Weber and the reporter from The Boston Bulletin introduced themselves.

**2. July 2025 minutes:** After correcting the spelling of Nate Hinchliffe, there was a motion by Willie Mitchell to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 11-0-0 (1 came late).

**3. Community Announcements:**

- Willie Mitchell said that J.S. Loves sponsored a backpack giveaway on the NDC Greenway (near 250 Centre Street). They gave away over 600 backpacks.
- Holly DeMelo, Program Director at the Jamaica Plain Recovery Center at 120 South Street, said that the Center is a free program recovery support center. They are collaborating on a planned upcoming cookout.
- Kiara Mark, from Heal the Hood (484 Centre Street), said they have a lot of events coming up this fall.

**4. Committee reports/recommendations:**

**4.1. Zoning Committee (ZC):** David Baron reported that there are no issues from the Zoning Committee that need votes tonight. The Zoning Committee did attempt to meet on Wednesday, August 13 but the meeting did not happen for technical reasons. The one item on the agenda, 18R Robeson Street, has been rescheduled.

The next Zoning Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3. On the agenda will be 18R Robeson Street. After that, the next ZC meeting will be on September 17. On the agenda will be 29 Aldworth Street.

Dave Baron also announced that Marie Turley, a long-time member of the Zoning Committee, died this morning.

**4.2. Public Service Committee:** Michael Reiskind reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00pm via Zoom. On the agenda were three licensing requests. Two requests require votes tonight: 1) Streetcar at 488 Centre Street, a long-time package store with a beer & wine license, is asking to upgrade to an all-alcohol package store license. The owner and manager, Michael Dupuy, said he has received lots of requests for spirits and the new store would remain small and continue to concentrate on artisanal products; added will be a unique selections of spirits. He will not sell mini-bottles or 'single' beers. Comments from the audience members were completely positive. Fourteen years ago, when this package store was first proposed, most of the comments centered around having a package store directly across the street from a public school. There have been no issues since Streetcar opened and no residents raised the concern at any of the neighborhood hearings. Motion by Michael Reiskind to support the request of Ferment LLC, doing business as "Streetcar", at 488 Centre Street for a retail package store all-alcoholic beverages license, with the hours of 11:00am to 10:00pm, with Michael Dupuy as manager. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 10-0-0 (1 came late, 1 left early).

2) There was a request for a new café and patio, to be called "Café La Paz", at 101 So. Huntington Avenue in the Serenity Apartments building. The proponents, Bora Kara and Cengiz Albayrak, have experience running two small cafés called the Naughty Waffle at Faneuil Hall Market Place and Wrentham Village Outlets. They plan to have a closing hour for the 20-seat indoor restaurant at 11:00pm, and close the 16-seat outdoor patio at 8:00pm. This is a restaurant with no alcohol, but they propose to have a TV projector. They promised that both of them would be in the store every day. There was one question whether they had reached out to their neighbor at 81 So. Huntington Avenue, Visions of Victory. They promised to do so. Since a take-out permit may also be needed, two votes are being requested together: Motion by Michael Reiskind to support the request of Al-Kar LLC, doing business as "Café La Paz", at 101 So. Huntington Avenue for a 7-day common victualler license, with the hours of 7:00am to 11:00pm, with Cengiz Albayrak as manager, and with an outdoor year-round front patio for 16 patrons, with patio hours of 9:00am to 8:00pm; **and also** to support the request of Al-Kar LLC (acting as agent for 101 Huntington Owner (DE) LLC) to grant a #36A take-out use to 101 Huntington Owner (DE) LLC, owner of 101-105 So. Huntington Avenue, with the proviso that the take-out use will remain only with the current business tenant at 101 So. Huntington Avenue, Al-Kar LLC, doing business as "Café La Paz". Seconded by Willie Mitchell. Passed 10-0-0 (1 came late, 1 left early). There is one more vote needed for the request of an entertainment license for the one projector. Motion by Michael Reiskind to support the request of Al-Kar LLC, doing business as "Café La Paz", at 101 So. Huntington Avenue for an entertainment license for one (1) projector only. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 11-0-0 (1 came late). Mr. Reiskind updated the Council on the request by Michel Soltani, owner of the Brendan Behan Pub (at 378 Centre Street), who would like to open a new french bistro next door at 380 Centre Street with a 7-day common victualler all-alcoholic beverages license. Mr. Soltani just had a conceptual plan and the Committee asked for more details at a later meeting. Mr. Reiskind also gave a brief summary of a new state law that will allow tickets

to be issued based on camera evidence for vehicle violations at MBTA bus stops and in bus lanes. He also summarized future planned Orange Line closings.

There will be no September Public Service Committee meeting. On the October agenda will be three requests: Michel Soltani's request for a new french bistro at 380 Centre Street, JP Convenience's request for a beer & wine package store license at 546 Centre Street, and Tropical Market's request for a beer & wine package store license at 371 Centre Street.

**4.3. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC)/Arborway Yard Committee:** Danielle Sommer Kieta said that the Housing & Development Committee did not meet in August and so there was no report.

**4.4. Parks+ Committee:** Nick Chaves said that the Parks+ Committee did not meet in August. Nick Chaves did update the Council on the ongoing Campaign for Jamaica Pond and Olmsted Park (the collaboration of the Parks+ Committee, Jamaica Pond Association Parks Committee and Friends of Jamaica Pond). The Campaign has sent a new letter to Mayor Wu and the electeds asking for money and resources to support the Parks' long-term needs. The letter was not sent from the JPNC but from the Campaign, however the Campaign, for full transparency, did send the letter for approval to the JPNC Executive Committee. Mr. Chaves summarized the letter; it is asking for funding to be moved along to the design stage for two line items: \$500,000 for a study for the Boathouse and Bandstand, and \$50,000 for an assessment to study the long-term needs of Jamaica Pond. The Campaign would like to be involved in the assessment. The Mayor had spoken briefly about these funding requests at the JPNC meeting in May, and the letter is a follow-up to that discussion. Rep. Sam Montañó asked whether the money is City or State money; Mark Freudenberger said it is all City money. Kiara Mark asked for more details about the assessment. It is to address issues such as controlling invasive plants, reducing bicycle/pedestrian conflicts, reducing soil erosion into Jamaica Pond, and identifying tree planting and tree trimming priorities. Nick Chaves also gave a follow-up on bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. The Parks Department has installed better signs and repainted the pavement stencils in yellow from the previous white. They are brighter and much more effective.

The next Parks+ Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11 (the second Thursday) at 7:00pm via Zoom.

**4.5. Outreach Committee:** Renée Stacey Welch reported that the Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, August 12 via Zoom. The JPNC Election is behind schedule; the nomination signatures have yet to be verified, but verification will start next weekend. It is proposed to extend the nomination period to gain more nominees and shorten the verification period. Renée Stacey Welch needs some volunteers to be Ombudspeople. Also the JPNC website has to be updated; Lorenzo Bartoloni offered to help with the update. Rep. Sam Montañó offered to be an Ombudsperson. The Election Committee/ Outreach Committee still needs to find a location to count votes and everyone needs to recruit volunteers to be poll workers and vote counters for the Election Day.

The next Outreach Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00pm.

**5. Old Business/New Business:** None.

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

*Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind*

Next scheduled JPNC meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7:00PM via Zoom.

Next scheduled JPNC Executive Committee meeting: Thursday, September 18 at 7:00PM via Zoom.