

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
April 29, 2014 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Kevin Moloney, Gerard O'Connor, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Anne Barrett, Anita Cooper, Bernard Doherty, Dana Gonsalves, Jamey Lionette, Daniel Perez Lacera, Carolyn Royce, Kyle D. Smith, Gert Thorn, and Jeffrey Wiesner.

Other attendees: Dorothy Farrell, Celdra Allen-Harding, John Stark, Rose Cullen, Tracy Price, Lisa Vaas, Martha Heath, Sarah Freeman, Emma Blaxter, Oliver De Leon, Eric Herot, Giovanni Valencia, Louise Outler, Patricia Ramos, and Michael Baker (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez' Office).

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by Kevin Moloney at Farnsworth House.

I. Introductions: Members introduced themselves.

II. Announcements:

- The City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) will hold a first meeting about several vacant parcels at New Heath Street, Parker Street and Bromley Street. It will be on Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30pm at the Back of the Hill Apartments, 100 So. Huntington Avenue.
- There will be a meeting on recommendations to improve the Arborway Crossing at the Arnold Arboretum on Tuesday, May 6 starting at 7:00pm at The First Church in Jamaica Plain, 6 Eliot Street (at The Monument).
- The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JP NDC) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, May 22 at 6pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall.
- The annual Wake Up the Earth Parades and Festival will be on Saturday, May 3.
- The next meeting on the Centre/Hyde/Jackson Design Projects will be on June 25 or 26. The first meeting was yesterday, April 28, at the Hennigan School.
- There will be an informational community meeting on the proposal to move the MBTA Arborway Yard to a site on American Legion Highway. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00pm at The English High School cafeteria. The area around this 19-acre site between Washington Street and Franklin Park has seen many recent changes. Local resident Allan Ihrer is personally asking that the MBTA bus yard be moved one mile to the east to American Legion Highway.

III. Approval of minutes: There was one correction to the March 25, 2014 minutes: In "VI. Resolution on Forest Hills Development", it was Anne Barrett who read an e-mail from Sarah Freeman into the record, not Carolyn Royce. Motion by Gert Thorn to approve the March 2014 minutes with the one amendment. Seconded by Bernard Doherty. Passed 14-0-0.

IV. Vacancy on the JP Neighborhood Council: There is still one vacancy in Area A on the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council and the JPNC is still recruiting in Area A for people to fill the seats. The Council will vote on a replacement at the next Council meeting. Emma Blaxter from Brookside Avenue nominated herself for the vacant seat.

V. Report from the volunteer group on Forest Hills Development:

The volunteer group on Forest Hills Development (Bernie Doherty, Mike O'Connor, Kyle Smith, Martha Heath and Giannalda Fontana) met on April 10. (Kyle Smith was absent.) The group has recommended changing some of the language of the resolution and a new draft was submitted. The group also recommended establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee and getting input from a wide range of stakeholders and residents on all the issues. David Baron reminded folks that an Ad-Hoc Committee would be subject to the same rules as all subcommittees; all meetings would be open and advertised in advance.

Some members felt uncomfortable with the "whereas" clauses, because there are many groups in Forest Hills that need to be brought together and organized. Martha Heath thought that the JPNC was not the best group to bring folks together

Motion by Bernard Doherty to accept the new draft of the resolution, changing "whereas" to "since", changing "insuring" to "seeking" and striking the third paragraph entirely. Seconded by Kyle Smith. Friendly amendment by David Baron to add language which creates an Ad-Hoc Committee instead of a Committee of the Whole.

Passed 13-0-1. The passed resolution is appended at the end of these minutes. Members are to be appointed to the Committee starting at the May meeting.

VI. Committee Reports:

a. Public Service Committee: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on April 1 at Curtis Hall. On the agenda were two licensing requests: 1) A transfer of the beer and wine license of the Ban Chiang House at 707 Centre Street to Noodle Barn at the same location with the three provisos that beer & wine be served with meals only, there be no bar, and Sunday service can begin at 9:00am for food only. The City Hall hearing was on

April 2, so the issue was sent to The Executive Committee. No vote is needed from the JPNC. In addition, the Committee discussed take-out at this location. Everyone in the audience was comfortable with this. 2) A request from Ula Café at 284 Amory Street to add live entertainment. This will be an occasional open mic night about once a month for one or two performers, to end at 10pm. There will be no cover or minimum. Everyone in attendance was supportive. Motion by Michael Reiskind to recommend approval of the request by Green Door Coffeehouse Company, doing business as "Ula Café", at 284 Amory Street for a change in its entertainment license to add live entertainment for up to 3 performers, to end at 10pm. Seconded by Kevin Moloney. Passed 14-0-0.

In addition, the Committee finalized the initiatives of the Public Service Committee for the upcoming two years. Michael Reiskind handed out the written list of initiatives. Motion by Michael Reiskind to approve the Public Service Committee initiatives for 2014-2015. Seconded by Kevin Moloney. Passed 14-0-0.

Centre and South Streets planning was also discussed. Gert Thorn spoke about Centre and South Streets needing about \$400,000 to do a good job of planning and design. A resolution will be further discussed at the May Public Service Committee meeting. Bernie Doherty spoke about integrating bicycle use into Centre and South Streets, and better enforcement of the rules for the bicyclists. The safety of the Hubway locations was also brought up.

There was an additional motion by Michael Reiskind to fill the available two Public Service vacancies: Dana Gonsalves for the JPNC vacancy, and Dorothy Farrell for the community vacancy. Seconded by Carolyn Royce. Passed 14-0-0.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, May 6 at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street at 7:00pm. On the agenda will be consideration of extending the Green Line to Hyde Square, bicycle accommodation on Centre and South Streets, and a resolution on Centre and South Streets planning.

b. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Jamey Lionette reported that the Housing and Development Committee met on April 15. The Committee is promoting the Wednesday, April 30 informational community meeting on the proposal to move the MBTA Arborway Yard to a site on American Legion Highway. The meeting will be held at 7:00pm at The English High School cafeteria.

The next meeting of the H&DC will be Tuesday, May 20 at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street at 6:30pm.

c. Zoning Committee: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met twice at Farnsworth House, on April 2 and 16. At the first meeting, the Committee heard a report given by Edith Murnane, director of food initiatives for the City of Boston, and Marie Mercurio, senior planner at the Boston Redevelopment Authority, on the new Article 89 regulations on Urban Agriculture. Jamaica Plain might expect to see some zoning requests for the keeping of hens or bees in the future.

There were two requests from April 16 that will be deferred at the Zoning Board of Appeal and go back to the neighbors for more discussion: 266 Lamartine Street (raze existing building and erect new, three-story dwelling with six residential units) and 221 Chestnut Avenue (construct new three-story addition on existing three-family dwelling; enlarge basement and extend dwelling into basement).

The following two items need a vote of the JP Neighborhood Council: 1) 178 Heath Street, a request by Byeonguk Yook to erect a 2-storey addition to the building, and change the legal occupancy from laundromat to laundromat with one residential apartment with art studio and garage. The owners of the building and laundromat will be living in the apartment. This newest plan by a different architect is much better. The neighbors are comfortable with the new design, but still have concerns about rain drainage from the roof and how the construction will be staged in such a tight lot. The Zoning Committee recommends approval. 2) 600 Centre Street, a request by West Cork Auto (Patrick Lombard) for an addition to allow for additional car repair bay; the addition will follow the existing walls and increase the footprint by about 7 feet to the side of the existing building. This design adds 7 feet to the width of the building, but allows for a third repair bay by reconfiguring the existing two bays. The Zoning Committee recommends approval subject to the local Jamaica Pond Association's approval. Motion by David Baron to accept the recommendations of the Zoning Committee on 178 Heath Street and 600 Centre Street. Seconded by Bernard Doherty. Passed 14-0-0.

The next meetings of the Zoning Committee will take place on Wednesday, May 7 and Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00pm at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street.

d. Environment, Parks and Energy Committee: Benjamin Day and Anita Cooper said that the next meeting of the Environment, Parks and Energy Committee will take place on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30pm at the John F. Kennedy School, 7 Bolster Street. This will be every second Tuesday of the month. Volunteering are Benjamin Day, Martha Rodriguez, Anita Cooper, and Dottie Farrell.

VII. Old/New Business:

- The JPNC website (www.jpnc.org) went down this month. It turns out that the cost to maintain it is \$200 every two years. The \$200 has been paid by Ben Day. The chair recommends that we pass the hat for contributions to reimburse Ben. The secretary/treasurer will keep track of contributions.

- There was a request for the JPNC to become a signatory to a letter of April 28, 2014 that had been distributed

before the meeting asking to meet with Mayor Walsh and his Chief of Economic Development, John Barros on economic development, and reform of the Boston Redevelopment Authority. It also suggests nine principles to guide economic development in Boston. Motion by Jamey Lionette to have the JPNC sign the April 28, 2014 letter. Seconded by Bernie Doherty. Passed 13-0-1.

- There was a request for the JPNC to sign a letter requesting a new traffic signal at Centre and South Street to improve left turns for Centre Street inbound traffic. Motion by Michael Reiskind to have the JPNC sign the traffic signal letter. Seconded by Kevin Moloney. Passed 13-0-1. It was also brought up that the Centre and Seaverns intersection needs improvement.

- Sarah Freeman said that the Forest Hills Development resolution passed earlier in the meeting still needs some edits. Her request to discuss the edits was ruled too late and out of order by the chair.

- Celdra Allen-Harding, from Prudential Unlimited Realty, asked whether the JPNC could have the documents discussed at these meetings projected onto a screen for the audience to look at. A volunteer offered some equipment that might do the task.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, May 27 at 7:00PM, at Farnsworth House

Next Executive Committee meeting: Monday, May 19 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street

Resolution on Forest Hills Development (passed April 29, 2014)

Since there are numerous transportation, public safety, development and zoning issues confronting residents and users of, and businesses in, the Forest Hills area; and,

Since these issues arise amidst the sometimes conflicting interests of MassDOT, DCR, the MBTA, relevant city of Boston departments, the BRA and the residents and users of, and businesses in, the Forest Hills area;

The JPNC, relying on the experience and expertise of both its Housing & Development and Zoning Committees, shall take a leadership and coordinating role in responding on behalf of the communities and neighborhoods affected by these complex issues, and in the resolution of them in the best interests of all concerned, hereby creates an ad-hoc committee for the purposes of:

1. Seeking that the residents and businesses of the Forest Hills community are aware and informed of the magnitude of the construction projects going forward in their neighborhood;
2. Seeking that the elected officials representing the Forest Hills area are aware of, and knowledgeable about, the existing and proposed construction projects, their time lines and their potential impacts on the community;
3. Making sure that the relevant state and city departments and agencies responsible for, or having jurisdiction over, these projects are reviewing the project plans and communicating and coordinating with each other;
4. Seeking that satisfactory procedures are in place to address problems and issues as they arise; and,
5. Seeking that a regular community input process be established to address concerns of the residents and businesses of the Forest Hills community.