

## **Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council January 29, 2013 Minutes**

**JPNC Attendance:** Ben Day, Red Burrows, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Erin Colgan-Snyder, Oliver DeLeon, Andrea Howley, Ken Sazama, Courtney Snegroff, Jeffrey Wiesner, and Joseph Wight.

**Elected at the meeting:** Dana Gonsalves, Ayan Hassan, Jamey Lionette, Jen Rogers, and Natalie VanLandingham.

**Community Attendance:** Naomi Karp, Helen Matthews, Michael Silverman, Ture Turnbull (City Councillor Matt O'Malley's office), Heather Perez (City Councillor Felix G. Arroyo's office), Michael Baker (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez's office), Bret Silverberg (Jamaica Plain Patch), and Rebeca Oliveira (Jamaica Plain Gazette).

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Ben Day at the Julia Martin House.

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

### **II. Announcements:**

- A film about Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate will be featured at the Radical Film Night on Wednesday, January 30 at 6:30pm at The Lucy Parsons Center, 358A Centre Street.

- HOPELINE open for job applications from Friday, February 1 through Sunday, March 3 at

[www.bostonyouthzone.com/byf](http://www.bostonyouthzone.com/byf) or at (617) 635-HOPE (4673). Administered by the Boston Youth Fund.

- The External Advisory Committee on School Choice (EAC) will have community meetings on Monday, February 4 at 6:00pm at Orchard Gardens K-8 School, 906 Albany Street, Roxbury or Tuesday, February 5 at 6:00pm at Suffolk University, 73 Tremont Street, 9th floor.

- Ward 11 Democratic Caucus will meet on Saturday, February 9 at 9:30 a.m. at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street.

- Third Annual State of Our Neighborhood will be on Tuesday, February 12 at 6pm at the John F. Kennedy School, 7 Bolster Street.

- The Boston Youth Fund will host a Job Fair for Teens on Saturday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Teen Room and Mezzanine Conference Room on the mezzanine at the Central Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street.

- Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez is sponsoring a field trip for 6-12 year-olds to the Museum of Science on Tues., February 19.

- There will be a fundraiser for the Boston Park Rangers Mounted Unit on Tuesday, February 26 at 5:30pm at Jacob Wirth's Restaurant, 31 Stuart Street. Tickets are \$55 in advance, \$75 at the door.

- There will be a Boston Redevelopment Authority South Huntington Avenue Corridor planning meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at 6:30pm at the Mary E. Curley School, 493 Centre Street.

- There will be a Casey Arborway Public Meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at 5:30pm at English High School.

- The annual Party in the Park will be on June 19. This year, it will have a new event on the evening before the

Party - a cocktail party on Tuesday, June 18 that is more affordable than the main Party.

**III. Approval of minutes:** Motion by Red Burrows to approve the September 2012 minutes and the December

2012 minutes. Seconded by Ken Sazama. Passed 8-0-0(3 late).

**IV. Elections of New Council Members:** Ben Day said that there are five vacancies on the JP Neighborhood Council and several residents were interested in filling them. He listed the folks who were in attendance, and those who have been nominated. There were also written biographies sent around before the meeting.

- In Area A (one seat), only Jen Rogers from 111 Chestnut Avenue has responded to the JPNC outreach. Motion by Red Burrows to accept Jen Rogers into Area A by acclamation. Seconded by Ken Sazama. Passed 8-0-0 (3 late). Jen Rogers took a seat on the JPNC.

- In Area B (two seats), Ayan Hassan from 146 Heath Street, Jamey Lionette from 229 Amory Street, Michael Silverman from 13 Burr Street, and Natalie VanLandingham from 38 Robeson Street have responded to the JPNC outreach. After ballots were distributed, a vote took place counted by Heather Perez and Michael Baker, and Ayan Hassan and Jamey Lionette were elected. They took seats on the JPNC.

- In Area B (two seats), Ayan Hassan from 146 Heath Street, Jamey Lionette from 229 Amory Street, Michael Silverman from 13 Burr Street, and Natalie VanLandingham from 38 Robeson Street have responded to the JPNC outreach. After ballots were distributed, a vote took place, counted by Heather Perez and Michael Baker, and Ayan Hassan and Jamey Lionette were elected. They took seats on the JPNC.

- In Area C (one seat), Ashley Brooks from 49 Lochstead Avenue, and Bill Munger from 30 Neillian Crescent have responded to the JPNC outreach. Dana Gonsalves from 35 Creighton Street was nominated from the floor. After ballots were distributed, a vote took place, counted by Heather Perez and Michael Baker, and Dana Gonsalves was elected. He took a seat on the JPNC.

- At Large (one seat), Michael Silverman from 13 Burr Street and Natalie VanLandingham from 38 Robeson Street, were nominated. After ballots were distributed, a vote took place, counted by Heather Perez and Michael Baker, and Natalie VanLandingham was elected. She took a seat on the JPNC.

Ken Sazama said that the JPNC will schedule an orientation session for the five new members in the near future.

#### **V. Committee Reports:**

a. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): Joseph Wright reported on the last H&DC meeting: 75 Amory Avenue, the former Building K site near the Orange Line tracks being developed by the JP Neighborhood Development Corporation (JP NDC), will have its Article 80 process start later than expected.

The last Boston Redevelopment Authority's (BRA) South Huntington Avenue Corridor Planning Study meeting in January broke into four break-out sessions. Mission Hill folks talked about 105A So. Huntington. Arborway Committee folks advocated for an extension of the Green Line from Heath Street to Hyde Square, although bicycle safety has to be considered, maybe rubber infill in the streetcar tracks. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13 (subsequently moved to Wed., February 27) at 6:30pm at the Mary E. Curley School. They will be

coming out with draft guidelines and asking for community comments.

b. Zoning: David Baron brought an updated list of members of the Zoning Committee. Keith Desutter is proposed as a new community member, and Ara Reyes and Joyce Perkit have withdrawn. This will leave two vacancies on the Committee, both open to JPNC members only.

David Baron reported that the Committee met three times since the last JPNC meeting: on December 20, January 10 and January 24. There were two items that have already appeared before the Zoning Board of Appeal: 124 Whitcomb Avenue, a request by Douglas Drake to add a dormer to the second floor. The Zoning Committee recommended approval. 53 Robeson Street, a request by Arthur Johnson to build three new townhouse units on a vacant lot. The Zoning Committee recommended approval.

The following four recommendations do need a vote of the JPNC: 1) 31 Round Hill Street, a request by David Demerjian to renovate by adding two 7-foot dormers, create a master bedroom and bathroom on the third floor from an existing bedroom, and renovate the bathrooms on the second floor. The applicant has two young children. This is a modest change that fits into the existing neighborhood and is supported by the nearby residents. The Committee recommends approval. 2) 19 St. Joseph Street, a request by St. Thomas Aquinas Church to change the occupancy of to add an adult education center for 75 adults on the third floor. This is a legalization of a long-time existing use that was supported by the students. No new construction is needed. The Committee recommends approval. 3) 5 Maple Place, a request by Peter and Kathryn Howe to remodel the first and second floors, adding two dormers and a two-level deck on the left side of the residence. This is a non-symmetric remodeling, with the neighbors in support. Inspectional Services initially allowed the building permit without any variances needed, but changed its mind after construction started. The Committee recommends approval. 4) 420 Pond Street, a request by Showa Boston Institute to build an addition for more classrooms in front of their main building. This had the support of the Jamaica Hills Association, as it is not visible by any neighbors. The Committee recommends approval. Motion by Red Burrows to recommend approval of the four requests at 31 Round Hill Street, 19 St. Joseph Street, 5 Maple Place, and 420 Pond Street. Seconded by Michael Reiskind. Passed 14-0-0 (2 late). Motion by Red Burrows to approve the addition of Keith Desutter as a member of the JPNC Zoning Committee, and accept the two resignations as submitted. Seconded by Michael Reiskind. Passed 14-0-0 (2 late).

The next two meetings of the Zoning Committee will be Thursday, February 7 and Thursday, February 21 at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street, at 7:00pm.

c. Public Service: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on January 8 at Curtis Hall. On the agenda was a presentation from the Public Works Department about new hours for street cleaning in Jamaica Plain. The Department of Public Works is planning to sweep streets in Jamaica Plain one day after trash pick-up day. Since they presently sweep most street on the same day as trash pickup day, that means that the currently posted days in most signed areas will move to one day later. Mr. Reiskind urged residents to start looking at their street cleaning signs in March, so they don't get surprised in April. Litter and street trash barrels were discussed as well.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, February 5 at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street at 7:00pm. On the agenda will be a request of Same Old Place at 662 Centre Street for changes in its 7-day common

victualler beer & wine license.

d. Ad-Hoc Racial Justice Committee: Ben Day reported that the Committee met once. The two main requests are to have a 10-30 minute presentation at the February JPNC meeting to give the neighborhood Racial Equity analysis, and to propose that each committee of the JPNC allow a 30-minute presentation at its March meeting to give a

Racial Equity analysis. The analysis would be different for each committee.

e. Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group (DAG): The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office (MEPA) determined that the Casey Arborway project does not require further study in the form of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that the project may proceed as planned. The next Casey Arborway public meeting had been planned for February 6, but was moved to February 27. On another note, the MBTA has re-advertised their remaining parcels in Forest Hills and has received some bids.

f. Jackson Square Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC): *No report.*

g. Parks & Open Space: *No report.*

h. Blessed Sacrament Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC): There were no CAC meetings held, but Joseph Wight summarized the meetings that the JP Neighborhood Development Corporation (JP NDC) held about changes in the plans for the Blessed Sacrament campus. Due to changing conditions, the JP NDC is selling off the Norbert School to a private developer for market rate housing, and plans to sell the main church building to its partner, new Atlantic Properties, for market rate housing also. During the meetings, the JP NDC said it is very open to ideas and willing to work together with the Hyde Square Task Force. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6 at 6:30pm at the Julia Martin House. There was a question whether the CAC would be reconvened. It is not known, but it seems to revolve around the question of how much more affordability is required on the campus. Helen Matthews asked the

JPNC to become much more active in the Blessed Sacrament church redevelopment issue.

**VI. Presentation by City Councillor -at-Large Felix G. Arroyo:** Because the State of the City address ran long, Councillor Arroyo could not attend and will have to be rescheduled.

Red Burrows thanked Heather Perez and Michael Baker for attending.

**VII. Update on legal appeal to 161 So. Huntington Avenue:** Jeffrey Wiesner summarized the legal action on the 161 So. Huntington Avenue project. The proposed development is at 161 So. Huntington Avenue, the former headquarters of the Home for Little Wanderers. Three variances and a permit to build 196 rental housing units were sought by the developer. The Jamaica Pond Association, the JPNC and its Zoning Committee, and the BRA-appointed Impact Advisory Group (IAG) opposed the proposal as submitted. There was opposition at all community levels. The developer went before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) anyway, and was approved unanimously. The JPNC is seeking an appeal of the ZBA decision in Superior Court, asking to invalidate the decision. The developer and the City are asking for a Motion to Dismiss on the grounds that the JPNC has no standing to appeal. The JPNC has answered, and the developer is asking to answer the answer. There were questions about the state Open Meeting Law and the definitions of “municipal board” and “governmental body”. In answer to a question, Jeffrey Wiesner said that the deciding hearing is usually held within two months. Motion by Red Burrows to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy on the legal matter relating to the 161 So. Huntington Avenue project. Seconded by Ken Sazama. Passed 11-4-1 by roll call vote as follows:

David Baron - Nay	Red Burrows - Aye	Erin Colgan-Snyder - Nay
	Ben Day - Aye	Oliver DeLeon - Aye Dana
Gonsalves - Nay		
Ayan Hassan - Aye	Andrea Howley - Nay	Jamey Lionette - Aye
Michael Reiskind - Aye	Jen Rogers - Aye	Ken Sazama - Aye
	Courtney Snegroff - Aye	Natalie VanLandingham -
Abstain	Jeffrey Wiesner - Aye	Joseph Wight - Aye

**Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:46pm.** As before, the JPNC will keep minutes of the

Executive Session , but not release them until after the litigation would not be affected.

**The JP Neighborhood Council did not return from Executive Session.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.**

*Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind*

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00PM, at the First Baptist Church.  
Next Executive Committee meeting: Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street