

## **Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council February 26, 2013 Minutes**

**JPNC Attendance:** Ben Day, Red Burrows, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Erin Colgan-Snyder, Dana Gonsalves, Jamey Lionette, Martha Rodriguez, Jen Rogers, and Jeffrey Wiesner.

**Community Attendance:** Gina Haynes, Mildred Hailey, Tom Kieffer, Sue Naimark, Elmer Freeman, John Riordan (Boston Children's Hospital), Shari Nethersole, (Boston Children's Hospital), and Rebeca Oliveira (Jamaica Plain Gazette).

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Ben Day at the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain.

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

**II. Council Vacancy:** Ben Day said that there is one new vacancy in Area C on the JP Neighborhood Council -

Hyun Shin has relocated for a new job and has resigned. There were no nominations forthcoming at this meeting.

### **III. Announcements:**

- There will be a Casey Arborway Public Meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at 5:30pm at English High School.
- 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.
- JP "Writes & Invites: Jodi Daynard", a talk by the author of "The Midwife's Revolt" will be on Thursday, March 7 at 6:45 p.m. at the JP Branch Library, 12 Sedgwick Street.
- The annual JP Spring Clean-Up and Boston Shines will be on Saturday, April 27 from 8:30am-2:00pm. Please

volunteer now to clean up in your neighborhood.

**IV. Approval of minutes:** Motion by Red Burrows to approve the January 2013 minutes. Seconded by Dave Baron. Passed 9-0-0(1 late).

**V. Discussion of Martha Eliot Health Center:** Martha Eliot Health Center (MEHC), a unit of Boston Children's Hospital located at 75 Bickford Street, has announced that it will be closing its adult services. John Riordan, Director of Community Partnerships in the Hospital's Office of Child Advocacy, started the presentation. There are new requirements that mandate a full network of care for all patients, and Boston Children's Hospital has determined that it cannot guarantee its adult care like its pediatric and adolescent care. So Martha Eliot Health Center will close its adult service and transfer care of its adult patients to other providers in the community. It will also increase its pediatric and adolescent care. Boston has a good amount of health care facilities: 12 community health centers, Boston Medical Center, Carney Hospital and the new So. Huntington Avenue Brigham facility. Only 24% of its adult patients live in Jamaica Plain, and perhaps these adults will receive care closer to their home. Whittier and Mattapan Health Centers have recently expanded and can accommodate new patients. On the other hand, Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center has closed. A lot of work is going into looking at capacity around the city. Shari Nethersole, Medical Director for Community Health in the Hospital's Office of Child Advocacy, continued the presentation. She said that the WIC program and pediatric mental health are staying at MEHC, and may be expanding. MEHC now has about 4800-5000 adult patients and an equal number of pediatric patients. Dr. Nethersole said that they hope to have a thoughtful transition with fully informed patients. They are working with the Boston Public Health Commission to make sure it works well, and hope to complete the transition by July 1. MEHC will conduct two information sessions with insurers and patient providers. Patients are being encouraged to talk to their primary care providers to make the move based on geographic and medical needs. She thinks that MEHC can thrive after the transition. The decision was not financially driven; MEHC will have the same rate of deficit after the change.

Questions and comments talked about MEHC being the second oldest community health center in Boston, and the change over happening too fast. Martha Rodriguez thought that Latino patients would be overwhelmed dealing with problems of language, insurance forms and new doctors. Ben Day asked for a community meeting, instead of an information session, like Faulkner Hospital recently had. Dr. Nethersole agreed to a community meeting to discuss what sort of pediatric care will be at MEHC. Mildred Hailey said she is on the Martha Eliot Advisory Committee and had not been informed about the change. She asked for a community meeting to answer questions and get out the facts. Motion by Ben Day to ask Boston Children's Hospital to have a community meeting where both sides can talk

about the change at Martha Eliot Health Center. Seconded by David Baron. Passed 10-0-0.

**VI. Presentation by Ad-Hoc Racial Justice Committee:** Ben Day introduced three members of the Committee, Tom Kieffer, Sue Naimark and Elmer Freeman, who made the presentation. They started with some background: The Ad-Hoc Racial Justice Committee grew out of a March 2011 presentation given to the JPNC about the JP Youth Health Equity Report. The report stated that there are "two Jamaica Plains". There is a measurable disparity between groups in our

neighborhood. While personal factors affect one's health enormously, it is overall factors, so called "social determinants", that affect a person's health even more. In Jamaica Plain, these are not overt prejudice, but an internal bias; not interpersonal racism, but institutional racism and structural racism (across institutions).

There are not many groups similar to the JPNC working on these issues. But some cities and foundations have begun to address health, transportation and education disparities. Seattle started in 2005 to change their methods of contracting, increased their outreach via more translation services, and created a broad roundtable including transportation, police, fire and parks personnel. They have trained 3,000 people. In Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission has trained 500 employees.

The focus on the JPNC is to 1) work individually with each Committee of the JPNC to analyze and make specific recommendations for each Committee, 2) have folks attend a training session - the first will be on March 28 at 6:00pm (the Southern JP Health Center also conducts them on the first Monday morning of every month), and 3) add a racial justice and equity "lens" to all JPNC business.

Dave Baron proposed having a standing Health Committee on the JPNC. It might attract new people to the Council.

#### **VII. Committee Reports:**

a. Public Service: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on February 5 at Curtis Hall. On the agenda was a request of Same Old Place at 662 Centre Street for changes in its 7-day common victualler beer & wine license. The main change is a change in manager from Fred Ciampa who died in July to his son Eric Ciampa and a change in corporation within the Ciampa family. All provisos previously agreed to in 2009 are also acceptable to the new owners. Motion by Michael Reiskind to recommend approval of a transfer of the 7-day common victualler malt & wine license at 662 Centre Street from Same Old Place, Inc. to Pizza Pizza Pizza Inc., doing business as "Same Old Place", at the same location, with Eric Ciampa as manager, with the provisos that alcohol be served with food only, all drink be served by wait staff in a separate area, and at least one TIPS-certified wait person be on duty at all times, and also a transfer of its entertainment license to the new corporation. Seconded by Red Burrows. Passed 9-0-0(1 left early). Mr. Ciampa also talked about new construction by his landlord and that he may have to move twice to accommodate the new development. The Committee also discussed starting a new anti-litter initiative.

Motion by Red Burrows to approve Marge Houy of 363 So. Huntington Avenue and JPNC member Jen Rogers as two new members on the Public Service Committee. Seconded by Ben Day. Passed 9-0-0(1 left early).

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, March 5 at the District E-13 Police Station, 3347 Washington Street at 7:00pm. On the agenda will be a request of Bartlett Square Café at 154 Green Street for a new common victualler license.

b. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): No report. The Committee did not meet.

c. Parks & Open Space: The Parks and Open Space Committee met on Tuesday, February 19 at a Boston Urban Council meeting. The first presentation was about a program called P.I.T.S (Program to Identify Tree Sites) to replant trees in empty street tree pits in the business districts. Folks can use Citizens Connect and also hard copy. Residents can request breaking concrete where there is no existing pit. The second program is Grow Boston Greener (GBG). Boston's goal is to increase its tree canopy to 36% (from the current 29%) and ensure they survive. They are looking for community-based stewardship and will supply grants from \$500-\$2500 (\$20,000 total).

Other POSC Updates: The Bottle Bill legislation needs calls, emails, and letters to push legislation.

Gas leaks legislation: Lori Erlich is resubmitting and cleaning up the verbiage.

JP Calendar: A Park Rangers Mounted Unit fundraiser: was on February 26 at 5:30pm at Jacob Wirth. On May 14, the 15th anniversary celebration of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will be at 6pm at the Rose Garden in the Fenway. On May 15, the Party in the Park Luncheon will be at 11am at the same location.

The next meeting of the POSC will be on Thursday, March 21 at 6:30pm at JP Licks.

d. Zoning: David Baron reported that the Committee met once on February 7. There are two items that need a vote of the JPNC: 1) 154-160 Green Street, a request by Maple Hurst Builders to permit occupancy for a restaurant/café with take-out. This new restaurant/bakery/café will serve baked goods and sandwiches and is in the first floor of a new mixed use building diagonally across from Green Street T station. There are two nearby bakeries that the proposed manager, Phil Peterson, has contacted. Mr. Peterson has experience at another bakery/restaurant and in food distribution. He promised to use English High students as employees. There will also be a large outdoor patio with 50 seats. The proposal had lots of community support. The Committee recommends approval. 2) 304 Centre Street, a request by Nikolaus Pseudoikonomou to change the occupancy from pizza restaurant with two apartments to pizza restaurant with take-out with three apartments. This is a legalization of a long-time existing use for Cappy's Pizza and three upstairs apartments. No new construction is

needed. It was actually approved at the Zoning Board years ago, but the applicant never followed up on the last piece of paperwork. The Committee recommends approval. Motion by Red Burrows to recommend approval of the two requests at 154-160 Green Street and 304 Centre Street. Seconded by Jen Rogers. Passed 9-0-0(1 left early).

The next two meetings of the Zoning Committee will be Thursday, March 7 and Thursday, March 21 at Farnsworth

House, 90 South Street, at 7:00pm.

e. Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group (DAG): The public meeting will be tomorrow Wednesday, February 27.

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

g. Blessed Sacrament Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC): No report. The JP Neighborhood Development Corporation (JP NDC) did not have any meetings.

VIII. Old/New Business:

Red Burrows will send out a chart by Doodle to choose the date for the next Elections Committee meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00PM, at the First Baptist Church.

Next Executive Committee meeting: Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street