

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Minutes, March 27, 2012

JPNC Attendance: David Baron, Red Burrows, Erin Colgan-Snyder, Benjamin Day, Francesca Fordiani, Andrea Howley, Cooper Renfro, Arazeliz Reyes, Alex Rodriguez, Martha Rodriguez, Kenneth Sazama, Hyun Shin, Courtney Snegroff, Jesse White, Jeffrey Wiesner, Joseph Wight

Community Attendance: Rich Wilson, Peg Moloney, Diana Vogel, Myrna Balk, Friends of the JP Library; Michael Frank, Friends of the Kelly Rink; Richard Heath; Olu Ibrahim, Rep. Sanchez's office; Nathanael Shea, Sen. Chang-Diaz's office; Jullianne Doherty, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Photios Makris, Heather Perez, Councilor Arroyo's office; Chris Helms, JP Patch, David Johnson, Jamaica Plain Citizen.

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Ben Day, at Julia Martin House, 90 Bickford Street, Jamaica Plain.

- I. JPNC Member Introductions : Members present introduced themselves.
- II. Additions to/subtractions from Agenda: None
- III. Announcements: See attached, incorporated herein. Additions: Boston Shines 4/27-4/28, Councilor O'Malley's Town Hall, 4/2, Donnolly Library
- IV. Update on Community Campaign and Capital Campaign for the Ice Rink/Recreation Center at Jackson Square - Michael Frank, President, Friends of the Kelly Rink: Michael Frank presented a brief history of the Kelly Rink, and presented information regarding the planned new ice rink in Jackson Square, and requested community support for the project. Frank reported that \$5.7 million in government funds have been committed to the project, but \$6 million still needed to build it. As part of a grant being sought, Frank is doing outreach to the community with the goal of identifying 1000 Friends of the Rink. He responded to several questions: DCR, who runs the current rink, will not run the new rink; the new rink will likely have a new name; no decisions have yet been made regarding the use of the current Kelly Rink after the new rink is built.
- V. Presentation on Restoration and Expansion of the JP Branch Library – Friends of the Jamaica Plain Branch Library:
Diana Vogel informed the Council on the need for renovations at the JP Branch Library. She reported that architectural renderings of a potential renovation of the library have been completed, and that the renovation is in the City's capital budget, but has not been funded. Vogel reported that \$8 million is needed to renovate the library, which is not currently ADA-compliant.
Motion by Ara Reyes for the JPNC to send a letter in support of funding the renovations to the library and for this letter to be approved by the Executive Committee in order to meet the deadline. Seconded by Courtney Snegroff. Passed (17-0-0)
- IV. Approval of February minutes: Motion to approve by Red Burrows with the following corrections: The Parks and Open Space Commitng has not yet begun planing, but the planning for plantings has

begun; correction to business name, KLK Inc. dba Grassfed should correctly be referred to as KLK3 dba Grass Fed. Motion seconded. Passed (17-0-0).

V. Committee Reports:

a. Parks & Open Space: Andrea Howley reported that the Committee met on March 22nd. Jullianne Doherty and Michael Reiskind attended to speak about and assist in coordinating Boston Shines, which will take place 4/27-4/27. Howley reported that Hyun Shin is working on a Facebook page for the Committee and that park cleanup dates will be on it. Howley reviewed the Committee's planning efforts regarding tree planting. Howley further reported that the Committee is working on a tree inventory with a focus on current empty tree pits. Howley reported that MA DOT has announced that it will not rebuild Casey Overpass, opting instead to pursue an at-grade solution, and that the former Working Advisory Group will continue to work as a Design Advisory Group going forward. She reported that the next POSC meeting will be on April 19th at 6:30pm at JP Licks.

b. Zoning: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met once in March, on 3/8. He reported that no votes are needed this evening because all the business in front of the Committee has already been heard by the ZBA. He reported on the following items that had been approved by the Executive Committee: 1) 713-715 Centre Street, change legal occupancy of third floor unit from office space to a three-bedroom apartment. Baron reported that this space has always been a residence, but the zoning had been inadvertently changed to three floors of office space. Committee recommended approval. 2) 265-279 Centre Street (Bromley-Heath Housing Development) Modification of existing (Sprint) wireless communications facility/development. Baron reported that residents of Bromley-Heath were present, as well as Sprint's lawyer. This item is in regard to upgrading data capability. Committee recommended approval. 3) 64-66 Catherine Street. New construction of two-family dwelling – Boston E+Green Building Demonstration Project. Baron reported that BRA's John Dalzell came to speak in favor and described this building as carbon negative, beyond LEED Platinum, and will put electricity back into the grid. Baron reported that the BRA had had a number of community meetings, had gotten support from residents prior to Committee meeting. Baron reported that at the meeting, opposition had been expressed regarding the look of it, and concerns regarding parking and traffic, that the BRA will work on layout of parking lot, and that the BRA seems invested in making abutters happy. Committee recommended approval. Concern from the audience and from Red Burrows was raised regarding outreach to abutters and Baron reviewed the process and responsibility area for this. Jullianne Doherty reported that 64-66 Catherine Street had been deferred at the BZC because of community concern regarding the design and the other two items passed. Baron reported that the next Zoning Committee meetings will be 4/11/12 at Curtis Hall, 7pm, and Thursday, 4/26th at 7pm, Farnsworth House. 4/11 agenda includes 29 Alveston, Streertcar Wine and Beer, 53 Glen street, and 55 and 61-61a Wyman Street. .

c. Public Service: Michael Reiskind reported that the Committee met 3/6 at Curtis Hall, discussed progress on putting together a list to city of crosswalks needing repainting and streets needing repair. He reported that the list was finalized yesterday and that feedback from the JP Patch had been incorporated. Reiskind reported the Committee discussed removal of billboards and licensing issues as follows: 1) Boston's Best Seafood and BBQ opened as Gail's cafe, legal name change, but everything else has remained the same; 2) Los Bendecidos at 264 Hyde Park Avenue sold and is operating under new name, with a restaurant license without alcohol. This can be changed without a hearing. The new name is El Fogon de la Morena and Lourdes Patrone is the new owner; 3) The Committee approved two new liquor licenses in Forest Hills, Tonic and Napper Tandy's. Reiskind reported that Napper Tandy's wants to change its name to Eugene O'Neill's, and the

hearing is tomorrow downtown. Motion by Red Burrows to approve Committee's recommendations to approve, seconded by Alex Rodriguez. Passed (17-0-0). Reisking further reported that the Committee discussed planning for Boston Shines, and that the next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be on April 3rd at Cheverus Hall at 7pm. Whole Foods will be requesting a common victualler's license for 22 seats indoors and 16 outdoors, Caffe Aromi is seeking to open a coffee shop, in the former June Bug space in Hyde Square.

d. Housing & Development Committee: Joseph Wight reported the Committee met on 3/20. He reported that the Committee is awaiting comment from the Zoning Committee on the Healthy Housing Guideline checklist. He reported on outreach efforts to Whole Foods' community liaison, and Jullianne Doherty offered assistance in making contact. Wight reported that there will be a public meeting regarding 161A S. Huntington Street, the former site of the Home for Little Wanderers. Motion by Joseph Wight to approve the membership on the Committee of Jamie Lionetti. Seconded by Francesca Fordiani. Passed (17-0-0). Wight reported progress on commercial development guidelines and noting that the Committee expects this to be a lengthy process. The next meeting of the Housing and Development Committee will be on 4/17, 7pm, at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street. It was also announced that Committee member and former JPNC member Steve Laferriere's wife has recently given birth to a daughter.

e. Ad Hoc Outreach & Communications Committee: Ben Day reported that he, Michael Reiskind and Joseph Wight had met and discussed redesign of website, and development of new mailing list, with the goal of making the website more attractive and interactive, and for the JPNC have better tools for outreach and advocacy. He reported that the website now has a meeting calendar and that the JPNC has a Twitter account: @jpcouncil. Day reported plans to schedule another meeting in the next several weeks. Francesca Fordiani added that JPNC and Committee meetings are also on the events calendar on the JPNC's Facebook page.

f. Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group (DAG): No report.

g. Jackson Square Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC): Arazeliz Reyes reported that the JSCAC met on 3/12 and discussed progress at 225 Centre Street regarding MBE's/WBE's. She reported that the developers believe they will meet hiring goals and they may have more money to hire more W/MBE's. The goal is 30% MBE, 10% WBE. She reported that they have not yet met these goals, but that it is still early in the process. She reported that the next JSCAC meeting will be on 4/4 at 20 Amory Avenue.

h. Burnett/Washington/McBride Advisory Group: No report.

i. Community Planning Committee for the Arborway Yard (CPCAY): No report.

j. Centre/South Street Corridor CAC : Michael Reiskind reported that there has been no activity and that the city is not planning to restart this process in the near future, as the Casey Arborway project is the focus on neighborhood planning efforts at this time.

VI. New/Old Business:

a. Hyun Shin announced that a helicopter will be delivering a cooling tower to Jamaica Tower on

Sunday April 22nd, from 7am to 2pm. The staging area for the helicopter will be Daisy Field and traffic will be slowed or restricted during these times.

b. Report-back on letter supporting Curley K-8 passed by Executive Committee, and next steps: Ben Day reported that a letter was approved by the Executive Committee and was sent to the School Committee, who will be voting tomorrow.

Motion to adjourn by Ben Day at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francesca Fordiani
Secretary

Announcements

- Wed, Mar 28, 6pm-9pm – School Committee Meeting voting on budget for JP schools: please attend to support the Curley K-8! 26 Court St, Boston.
- Thu, Mar 29 at 6PM - Casey Arborway Project Public Information, English High School Auditorium, 144 McBride Street.
- Sat, Mar 31, 11am-2pm – Community meeting on Boston Public Schools’s new school assignment system, English High School, 144 McBride St.
- Ongoing through Mar 31 – *1st Annual Children’s Book Drive*, sponsored by Representative Jeffrey Sanchez. Donate new or gently used children’s books for students attending local JP elementary schools at one of following locations:
 1. Hennigan Elementary School, West Zone Early Learning Center: 200 Heath St.
 2. Kennedy Elementary School: 7 Bolster St.
 3. Manning Elementary School: 130 Louders Lane.
 4. Curley K-8 School: 40 Pershing Rd.
- Mon, Apr 9 at 6PM - Boston premiere of the film "Equal or Better: the story of the Silver Line", Connolly Library Auditorium, 433 Centre Street.
- Wed, Apr 11 at 6PM - First public meeting on the 161 So. Huntington Avenue project (former Home for Little Wanderers), location TBA.
- Sat, Apr 28 - 27th Annual Jamaica Plain Spring Clean-Up. Contact Michael Reiskind at (617) 522-1150, or Bob McDonnell at (617) 522-7506. Groups can register online to clean an area in JP here: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/ons/BostonShines/register.asp?type=organization>
- Sat, May 19 - 3rd Annual Route for Kids 5K along Southwest Corridor Park in Jamaica Plain, fundraiser for Horizons for Homeless Children. To volunteer, contact Alisha at aatlascorbett@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org, 617-553-5423.