

**Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council**  
**May 28, 2013 Minutes**

**JPNC Attendance:** Ben Day, Michael Reiskind, David Baron, Dana Gonsalves, Ayan Hassan, Jamey Lionette, Martha Rodriguez, Jen Rogers, Jesse White, and Jeffrey Wiesner.

**Community Attendance:** Alexandra Valdez (City Councillor Matt O'Malley's office), Michael Baker (Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez's office), and Bret Silverberg (Jamaica Plain Patch).

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Ben Day at the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain.

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

**II. Announcements:**

- The JP Neighborhood Development Corporation Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 29 from 6pm-9pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 45 Brookside Avenue.
- The Egleston Square Farmers' Market is opening for the season on Saturday, June 1 at 10:00am at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall at 45 Brookside Avenue.
- The annual Boston Pride Block Party will be on Sunday, June 9. Perkins Street will be closed between Centre Street and So. Huntington Avenue from 12:00pm to 7:00pm.
- There will be a community meeting about Article 89, the BRA's citywide rezoning initiative addressing "urban agriculture", on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00pm at The English High School.

**III. Approval of minutes:** Motion by Jen Rogers to approve the April 2013 minutes. Seconded by Dana Gonsalves. Passed 9-0-1.

**IV. Council Vacancies:** Ben Day said that there is one new vacancy on the JP Neighborhood Council - Joseph Wight has resigned his At-Large seat. This is in addition to the previously announced vacancies in Area A and Area C. There were no nominations forthcoming at this meeting.

**V. Committee Reports:**

- a. Parks & Open Space (POSC): Andrea Howley was not present, but she had submitted a written report of the meeting which is summarized as follows: The POSC met on Thursday, May 16 at JP Licks.
- Franklin Park Clean-Up will be on June 1 at 10:30am at Long Crouch Point. Natalie VanLandingham has 7 people scheduled. Then moving at 1pm to behind the Shattuck Hospital in the area with the picnic tables, fitness area and lawn tennis courts.
  - Tree Survey: The POSC is asking a local photographer to take pictures of the tree pits to send to the city.
  - Bottle Bill: Working to help make a ballot question. Looking for volunteers to work getting signatures between September and November.
  - The POSC is appealing to the JPNC and friends to save 2-weeks-worth of 5 cent deposit bottles and bring them to the next Council meeting to benefit the Summer Dancing Camp Scholarship fund at Tony Williams Dance Center.
  - Hillside tree planting: The POSC has been awarded a Grant from Grow Boston Greener. On Saturday, June 1 from 9am to noon, we need volunteers to help plant the trees. Please contact Sarah Freeman for details.
  - Olmsted Birthday Weekend: Events on April 26-28 were well attended and all went well.
  - Announcements: There will be events in the park on all four Sundays in July at Pinebank; the first three at 6pm for music and the last at 7:30pm for the movie, Dr. Seuss the Lorax.
  - The first CIRCLE THE CITY will be on July 14 on the Avenue of the Arts. The second CIRCLE THE CITY will be on September 29 on Blue Hill Avenue.
  - The annual Franklin Park Kite and Bike Festival will be on May 18 at Shattuck Picnic Grove, 11am-4pm.
  - There will be a Walk for Peace on June 2 from Hellenic Hill to Arborway Hillside. Meet at the Jamaica Pond Boathouse at 3pm. Sponsored by Arborway Coalition, Friends of a Jamaica Pond, and Olmsted 2022.
- The next meeting of the POSC will be on Thursday, June 20 at 6:30pm at JP Licks.
- b. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC): No report from the May meeting. Jamey Lionette said that the H&DC is losing its meeting space at Farnsworth House.
- The next meeting of the H&DC will be on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30pm at the Bowditch School.
- c. Zoning: Dave Baron reported that the Committee met twice, on May 9 and May 23.
- The item that was deferred last month by the Zoning Committee at 55 Sedgwick Street (a request by Photios Makris to add two dormers to the attic level, elevate roof to match main roof, and add front and rear porches) was not deferred at the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA). The ZBA approved the second design.
- There are three items that need a vote of the JPNC: 1) 891 Centre Street, a request by The Eliot School (acting as agent for Orchard Street Acquisitions LLC) to change the occupancy from offices to offices and upholstery classes and related craft activities. The Eliot School would like to expand and put its upholstery classes in the basement of

the old Boy Scouts Building. The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) voted not to oppose. The Committee recommends approval. 2) 67 Perkins Street, a request by Christopher Page to change the occupancy from a three-family to a four-family dwelling and convert the basement into a two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment. The JPA voted to oppose this request. This is an above-grade basement in an attractive building with plenty of off-street parking. All the neighbors who came were in favor and there was a petition of favorable neighbors submitted. The Committee recommends approval. Michael Reiskind reported on the next two items. 3) 74R Spring Park Avenue, a request by Hanmin Lee to build an open deck with an enclosed sunroom on a roof. This is a rebuild of an existing deck, except that 60% of it will be covered with a roofed sunroom. It is to be built on the one-storey portion of a one- and two-storey building called 74R Spring Park Avenue. Mr. Lee intends to move himself and his family into this single-family dwelling. The Committee recommends approval. 4) 27 Lamartine Street, a request by John Moran of Alpine Advisory (acting as agent for AAA Properties, LLC) to extend the living space of Unit One into the basement and install three tandem parking spaces in the side yard. This is a three-decker with an above-grade basement in the rear because of a large difference in grade. After looking over the plans, the applicant agreed to reduce the off-street tandem parking to two spaces and reconfigure the basement to add more common space, move the kitchen to the upper level of the unit and redo the design. They will be returning to the Zoning Committee after redesign. No vote needed by the JPNC. Motion by Michael Reiskind to recommend approval of the first three requests at 891 Centre Street, 67 Perkins Street, and 74R Spring Park Avenue. Seconded by Martha Rodriguez. Passed 10-0-0.

The next two meetings of the Zoning Committee will be Thursday, June 13 and Thursday, May 27 at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street, at 7:00pm. On the June 13 agenda will be 111 Perkins Street, 119 Neponset Street, and a new development that will be subject to Small Project Review - 197 Green Street/3371-3375 Washington Street, a request for a mixed use 4-storey building with parking area and two bakeries.

d. Public Service: Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee met on May 7 at Curtis Hall. On the agenda were three requests: 1) Request for a change in the 7-day common victualler all-alcoholic beverages license of Craft Café, LLC, doing business as “Simpli Bar & Bites”, at 3840 Washington Street, to change the manager from Kevin Walker to Michael Merlis. The old manager was Kevin Walker, who is the developer and landlord of the new building across from Harvest Coop. When Mr. Walker appeared before the Public Service Committee last December, he said he would need a change in manager in the future. The new proposed manager is Michael Merlis, who has been working in the hospitality industry since 2000, most recently as manager at the Weymouth Club. The Committee recommends approval. 2) Request of Wicked Ice, LLC, doing business as “FoMu”, at 617 Centre Street for a new 7-day common victualler license with the hours of 8:00am to 12midnight, with Hin Tang as manager, and an entertainment license for recorded music only. The co-owner, Deena Jalal, gave the presentation for a new specialty ice cream and desserts café. Ms. Jalal and her husband, Hin Tang, have hospitality experience, working as managers in their other FoMu in Allston. Discussion centered on the issues of hours, trash disposal and take-out. Ms. Jalal said that all their trash is stored in the basement and is picked up once-a-week. Since FoMu in Allston has very active take-out sales of take-home pints and ice cream cakes, they will need a take-out license in JP. The Committee was comfortable with take-out at this location with Ms. Jalal and Mr. Tang as operators. The Committee recommends approval. 3) Request of Caffé Aromi at 403A Centre Street for an outdoor patio with 25 seats. Terry Bruce, manager of Caffé Aromi, gave the presentation for the change in description of the license. The outdoor patio will be for extra seating and tables only, and will not have wait staff serving the area. This is the same area that was used as a patio by the adjacent Bella Luna Restaurant before it moved. Ms. Bruce said that the adjoining three-decker tenants are in favor of the change. Discussion centered on the issues of trash disposal and cleanliness. Jen Rogers spoke passionately about her disagreement with Ms. Bruce on how often the staff should go around and clean the establishment, as well as the patio opening before Licensing Board approval. Because Caffé Aromi has not yet applied at the Licensing Board, Michael Reiskind offered to defer the vote on this issue. (Just after May 28, the community was informed that Caffé Aromi had a hearing on June 5 at the Licensing Board.) The Committee was also comfortable with take-out at this location with Ms. Bruce as operator. Motion by Dave Baron to recommend approval of the first two requests - at 3840 Washington Street and at 617 Centre Street. Seconded by Jesse White. Passed 9-0-1.

The next meeting of the Public Service Committee will be Tuesday, June 4 at Curtis Hall at 7:00pm.

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

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

**VI. Old/New Business:** none

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.**  
*Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind*

Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, June 25 at 7:00PM, at the First Baptist Church.  
Next Executive Committee meeting: Wednesday, June 19 at 6:30PM, JP Licks, 659 Centre Street