

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Minutes, April 24, 2012 (as amended)

JPNC Attendance: David Baron, Red Burrows, Benjamin Day, Oliver DeLeon, Francesca Fordiani, Andrea Howley, Jessica Later, Cooper Renfro, Michael Reiskind, Arazeliz Reyes, Martha Rodriguez, Kenneth Sazama, Hyun Shin, Jeffrey Wiesner, Joseph Wight

Community Attendance: Bob Goodman, Mission Hill School parent; Katie Lauretano, Rep. Sánchez's office; Stafford Lewis, Alpha Building Construction; Dennis Patch, Patch Realty Group; Alifiya Kajalwala; Jullianne Doherty, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Heather Perez, City Councillor Felix Arroyo's office; Peter Shanley, JP Gazette; Richard Heath, David Johnson, JP Citizen; Bashier Kayou, SJPHC; Helen Mathews, Margaret Noce, JPC: Tree of Life; Jen Douglas; Val Frias, City Councillor Matt O'Malley's office; Chris Helms, JP Patch; Tom Kieffer, SJPHC; Elmer Freeman, Pat Feeley

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm by Ben Day at Julia Martin House, 90 Bickford Street.

I. JPNC Member Introductions: Members introduced themselves.

II. Additions to/subtractions from Agenda: Addition, Hyde Square anti-smoking effort. Subtraction: City Council President Steven Murphy will not be attending tonight's meeting.

III. Announcements: See attached, incorporated herein. Additions: Franklin Park Renovation neighborhood discussion, Golf Clubhouse, Monday, 4/30, 6pm. Val Frias announced she is leaving City Councillor Matt O'Malley's office at the end of the week. Liz Sullivan will be JP's contact going forward.

IV. Presentation by City Council President Stephen Murphy on Plans for the Upcoming City Council Session: Presentation postponed to a future meeting to be announced.

V. Presentation on Renovation of the Agassiz building for incoming Mission Hill School K-8 – Bob Goodman, Mission Hill School parent: Mission Hill School parent Bob Goodman reported to the Council, project architects also present. Goodman reported that renovations to the Agassiz building are needed to adapt to Mission Hill's experiential, hands-on learning model, and that using a parent and teacher-centered approach to renovations is a goal. Goodman reported that the lack of walls and light are just a few of the problems with the building (Agassiz is currently open-plan). He reported that renovations are expected to take three years because only two months per year are available for renovation work to be done, due to the of school calendar. He reported that another high school would be moving into the Agassiz in addition to Mission Hill K-8 pilot. Another parent and architect, Chris McGrody, worked with principal and staff to come up w/drawings. Entrance improvements are also being sought to make the building look more welcoming. Currently there are 160 students, which will almost double in the future. BPS has been addressing air quality issues and installed a new roof over the last few years. Mission Hill parents will meet with JPNC's ad-hoc youth committee to explore potential next steps by the JPNC.

VI. Approval of March minutes: Motion to approve by Dave Baron, seconded by Andrea Howley. Passed 11-0-1 (12 present at time of vote.)

VII. Committee Reports:

- 1 a. **Housing & Development Committee:** Joseph Wight reported. Wight reported that the Committee met on April 17 and discussed the mandate of committee, and will write up something for recruitment. He reported that they discussed the Healthy Housing guidelines. He reported that the Committee has been talking about meeting with Jennifer Light, neighborhood liaison for Whole Foods, but the committee is putting this, and commercial development guidelines aside to focus on upcoming developments. He reported on the proposed development of 161 S. Huntington. The Committee would like the BRA to extend the Article 80 process in order to address community concerns. He reported that the Landmarks Commission is having an Article 85 Demolition Delay hearing is May 8. The deadline for public comments to the Landmarks Commission is May 6. He reported that Article 85 is the landmarks commission process of granting a 90-day delay of demolishing a building in order to

allow time for advocates to petition the Commission to name the building a landmark. The former Home for Little Wanderers' original building is 98 years old. Wight reported that the Committee requests that the JPNC ask the Landmarks Commission to grant the 90-day demolition delay and to ask the BRA to extend the Article 80 process to include more community involvement. He reported that the project's IAG has not yet officially met. Motion by Ben Day for the JPNC to send a letter to the BRA asking for a longer community process, better advertised and more accessible, with the goal of reaching community consensus; and for the JPNC to send a letter to the Landmarks Commission asking for the 90-day delay to evaluate options for preservation. Second by Red Burrows. Passed 15-0-0. Wight reported that he has contacted the developer, BRG, who agreed to meet with the Committee re: inclusionary zoning, date TBD. Next meeting is May 15 at the Bowditch School, 82 Green Street at 7pm. Andrea Howley mentioned another proposed development at 105a S. Huntington and expressed concern re: Green Line service cuts, and how residents will be accommodated, and asked Committee to explore if either project will be seeking TOD funding. She further reported that names are now being submitted for the IAG for 105A S. Huntington.

- b. **Zoning:** Dave Baron reported that the Zoning Committee met on 4/11, and discussed as follows. 1) 482-488 Centre Street is Streetcar Beer and Wine, request to change legal occupancy to allow operation of a retail wine and malt beverage only store and a nail salon, respectively, in lieu of present occupancy for physical therapy office. No one from the community expressed opposition. Planned hours are 11 a-10p. Emphasis will be on craft beers and small wineries. Build-out is under way. Baron reported that he has been in contact with Curley School parents. Committee recommended approval of variance for Conditional Use: Liquor Store. 2) 29 Alveston Street, construction of new dormer on left side of dwelling. Request to widen existing shed dormer, owner has also been to Sumner Hill Association, who is in support and no one spoke in opposition at the meeting. Committee recommends approval. 3) Baron reported that the last item is not zoning variance. The Committee heard comments re: Glenvale Park NDOD (Neighborhood Design Overlay District), 55 and 61-61A Wyman. Baron reported that the owner is Gary Martell, there is one parking space on lot, community would prefer to see a garage built. Baron reported that the BRA not enthusiastic about front-facing garages, but will consider it if neighbors agree. Recommendation from community is to center the building on the property lot and build a garage. Baron reported that this is not a matter for the Committee to make a formal recommendation upon, but they are relaying comments from the community. Motion to approve Committee's recommendation by Red Burrows, seconded by Ara Reyes. Passed 15-0-0. Baron reported that the next meeting of the Zoning Committee is Thursday, 4/26 at the Farnsworth House. On the agenda will be 41 Amory Street and 29 Brookside Avenue. Baron reported that the Committee will also be discussing the Healthy Housing Guidelines checklist. The meeting following will be on 5/10 at Farnsworth House.
- c. **Parks & Open Space:** Cooper Renfro reported that the Committee met on April 19th, and are planning future POSC clean-ups and will be doing outreach at Boston Shines for volunteers. Tentative dates are June 16, August 25 and October 13. He reported that they hope to have the tree inventory done by May 12th, then plan next steps. Andrea Howley reported that the Committee is participating in Boston Shines and will be meeting at 8:45am on Saturday, April 28th at Curtis Hall. She reported that the Committee will be cleaning Parkman, Mozart, Arcola and Jefferson Parks. Michael Reiskind noted that the trees on Centre and South Streets are owned by the City of Boston Parks Department, through a Browne Fund grant approximately 20 years ago, which provides for maintenance in perpetuity. Renfro reported that the Committee launched a Facebook page, and asks member to "like" the page and post a picture of their favorite JP park. Jullianne Doherty announced additional meeting times and places for Boston Shines.
- 2 d. **Public Service:** Michael Reiskind reported that the Committee met on April 3rd and heard the following: 1) Caffe Aromi, 7-day common victualler license, hours 6a -11pm, with entertainment license for recorded music only, Terry Bruce, manager, 45 seat coffee shop, 10 – 12 full and part-time employees, prices comparable to Ula Cafe and City Feed. He reported that the owner agreed to not put grates up, ever, that all members of the audience who spoke were in favor of application. Motion to recommend approval of common victualler and entertainment licenses by Michael Reiskind, 2nd by Red Burrows. Reiskind noted that there was no objection from the business owners in the audience, and there is

support from Hyde/Jackson Main Streets. Passed 9-4-2. 2) Kennedy's Fried Chicken, 7-day common victualler license and entertainment license for recorded music only, 11a -12 midnight, Burhan ud Din, manager. Reiskind reported that the business has been open since 2010, but the manager did not get the notice to renew CV license, so the license did not transfer when the business opened, resulting in a violation. Reiskind reported that the Committee recommended approval, which was granted by the Executive Committee because the City hearing date was the following day. 3) Whole Foods, common victualler license for 16 outdoor and 22 indoor seats. Reiskind reported that there were many in the audience who spoke both in support and against the request. Reiskind reported that the Committee's vote was tied, so no recommendation made. Council members discussed support of request by Hyde/Jackson Main Streets and whether Whole Foods had met several other requests from the community, for example, they now have a bulletin board w/fliers, menus from other local restaurants. Concern was expressed by Council members that it appears that Whole Foods had not done adequate outreach to the business community. A question came from the audience regarding whether Whole Foods had supplied information to the Council regarding the percentage of Whole Foods' business that comes from prepared meals, as they had agreed in the Committee meeting. Francesca Fordiani reported that they had not. Reiskind reported that he had not seen the application directly to city. Motion by Red Burrows for the Council to recommend denial until Whole Foods meets with all neighborhood businesses. 2nd by Ara Reyes. Francesca Fordiani recommended removal of the proviso "until meeting with all businesses" because simply meeting with neighborhood businesses does not address the community's concerns. Accepted by Burrows. Motion to recommend denial of CV license to Whole Foods. Passed 8-7-0. (**This vote subsequently rescinded by vote of the Council on 5/29/12.) Reiskind reported that the next Committee meeting will be May 1st and 7pm at Curtis Hall; the Committee will hear matters related to Fiore's request for a beer and wine license, and CV license for Slice O' Pie.

- e. **161 South Huntington Impact Advisory Group (IAG):** Joseph Wight reported that report from IAG was incorporated into the Housing and Development Committee report.
- f. **Ad Hoc Outreach & Communications Committee:** No report.
- g. **Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group:** Francesca Fordiani reported that the DAG will have its first meeting on April 30.
- h. **Jackson Square Citizen Advisory Committee:** Ara Reyes reported that previous meeting had been changed without proper notification to CAC members, so she had not attended the previous meeting.

VIII. New/Old Business:

- a. **New business: Presentation on the JP Equity Collaborative by Thomas Kieffer, Executive Director, Southern JP Health Center, and Bashier Kayou, Racial Healing and Reconciliation Project.** Ben Day reported that he has been attending Collaborative meetings for several months and that the Collaborative had grown out of the JP Health Equity Collaborative. Kieffer and Kayou reported that the Collaborative is the product of extensive outreach to the community over the last several years, and was formed in response to the perception of there being "two JP's." Kieffer reported that JP youth have two different realities in their future health, and the Collaborative seeks to understand how to address differential futures of young people. He reported that the goal of their values statement is to have organizations make specific commitments to how they can best engage in equitable practices concerning race and racism. Motion by Ben Day for the Council to support values statement and any interested council members meet to look at steps we can take to change how we work. 2nd by Red Burrows. Discussion by members of the Council how adoption of values statements will be put into practice. Motion withdrawn to allow for further discussion and clarification. Ken Sazama will convene a group of interested members to discuss for possible vote next month.
- b. **Old business: Report-back on support for Friends of the Jamaica Plain Branch Library:** Motion by Ben Day to approve letter of support for requested renovations. Seconded by Red Burrows. Passed (13-0-2). Letter attached and incorporated herein.

- c. **Old business - Redistricting:** Francesca Fordiani reported that it appears that the City Council redistricting process has been continuing, and that there are two maps currently under consideration, one of which would move Ward 19 Precinct 12 out of City Council District 6. Ben Day reported that it appears that the map removing 19-2 will not likely pass, and that vote is not likely for another several months.
- d. **New business: HSTF anti-smoking outreach.** Oliver DeLeon reported on efforts by the Hyde Square Task Force and Inquillinos en Accion's to keep tobacco products out of sight of youth in order to reduce youth smoking. DeLeon circulated draft letter from Council in support. Discussion among membership of whether Council could customize a letter. Motion by Francesca Fordiani to have Executive Committee approve and send a letter on Council's behalf. Seconded by Ken Sazama. Passed 15-0-0.

IX. Next JPNC meeting: Tuesday, May 29 at 7PM, location TBD.
 Next Executive Committee meeting: May 22 at 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Francesca Fordiani, Secretary

Announcements – see new announcements page

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 ri, Apr 27, 9am-4pm – Mass. Department of Transportation and MBTA job/career fair. Salvation Army, Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 650 Dudley Street, Boston.

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 at, 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/Boston Shines/register.asp?type=organization](http://www.cityofboston.gov/ons/Boston%20Shines/register.asp?type=organization)

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 at, 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.