

Minutes for 9/25/12 JPNC Meeting

In attendance: Oliver De Leon, Joseph Wight, Jesse White, Red Burrows, Ben Day, Erin Colgan-Snyder, Mike Reiskind, Mike Baker, Fraiser Paombian (?), Jay Schartz

Announcements and Minutes approval were tabled

Parks and Open Space-

The committee reported that the tree survey was near completion. They have given support to the Bottle bill and are receiving free daffodil bulbs for planting. There were a series of community meetings for Arborway access around Kelly circle. The issues that were covered were:

- 1) Better pedestrian crossing at Eliot St.
- 2) Improving Kelly Circle by narrowing lanes to slow traffic.
- 3) Improving the pedestrian crossing at the Parkman Memorial especially for Handicap access.

Next meeting will be on Oct. 18th @ 6:30Pm at JP Licks.

Blessed Sacrament CAC-

A meeting was held of the Blessed Sacrament CAC in September. The CAC for this project has not met in 6 years, and held an informational type meeting with the JPNDC and Atlantic Properties. The focus of the CAC will be around the Norberg School and the Church property. Currently, the Atlantic group has a 60% ownership of the church and the school. Both parties plan to sell the church to New Atlantic Reality and both parties want to sell the school to GNC, a reality group. The meeting was an unofficial meeting. The Article 80 meeting will happen later and will center around 2 changes in the map amendment. The campus has 7 buildings on the whole with around 60% affordable housing. The JPNDC committed to 2-4 units of affordable housing in the church. The Norberg School would require a change of use through the BZA. The park area would be broken up.

Housing and Development-

The Housing and Development Committee Met and talked about holding 3 meetings for the months of October and November around the following issues:

- 1) 161 S. Huntington
- 2) Blessed Sacrament
- 3) 105A S. Huntington.

This decision was in response to the community's disappointment with the BRA's community process and the lack of any community process from the JPNDC. It was pointed out that the timeline does not allow a meeting before the Zoning Committee meets on Oct. 11th, but does make it possible to have a meeting before the BRA Board meets on Oct.18th. There were 2 rounds of re-scoping and the BRA seemed to be unconcerned with the opposition from people in the community. It was proposed that we ask the Executive committee to allow an Ad-Hoc Meeting

committee led by Red Burrows to be formed to make these meetings happen on the three issues.

Zoning-

There was no report from the Zoning committee. Ben Day said he would communicate with David Baron and find out if anything needed approval and would contact the Executive Committee if anything needed approval. There was an announcement that the Zoning Committee will be meeting on October 11th @7PM at the Farnsworth House. This meeting will be for 161 S. Huntington Ave.

Public Service-

The Public Service Committee met on Sept.4th and dicussed
(insert here)

Ad Hoc Racial Justice Committee-

This committee had 2 meetings to prioritize previous brain storming lists. If anyone wants to do work on these issues, its important to have a common ground through training on this subject. There are 20 to 30 people in this group and they are working to try to develop a training course on this subject. When developed, it will be brought before the whole Council for trial.

Casey Arborway Design Advisory Group-

There was no report due to the absence of Francesca Fordiani

Jackson Square CAC-

No Report

Redistricting Update-

A City Council plan that Matt O'Malley co-wrote, was vetoed by the Mayor. The Mayor stated that he would only approve districts that only allow more minority representation.

School Choice and Student Assignment –

"BPS is again proposing to change the student assignment and school choice system in Boston. Currently there are three school choice zones (North, East, and West) for elementary and middle schools, and students can apply to schools in their zone or that are within walking distance. The BPS has proposed five alternative maps, with 6, 9, 11, 23, and no zones (meaning students would automatically be assigned to the nearest school). BPS is hosting a series of community meetings on these proposals to get feedback from students, staff, and parents in the system. However, only two of the 15 proposed meetings are in the West Zone where Jamaica Plain is, and they are both in the northern part of the district.

Moved and unanimously approved that the JP Neighborhood Council ask the BPS to include additional community meetings in the Southern parts of the West Zone, in Roslindale or Jamaica Plain, to make these important meetings accessible to families throughout the zone."

Elections Committee-

Red Burrows proposed that the Ad Hoc Elections Committee should be formed at the next meeting. This proposal was introduced at this meeting and will be voted on at the next meeting.