

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
December 21, 2023 Minutes

JPNC Attendance: Renée Stacey Welch, Peter DeCotis, Sarah Freeman, Luke Mathew, Katherine O’Shea, and Peg Preble.

Other attendees: Richard Heath (Boston Bulletin).

The meeting was called to order by Renée Stacey Welch.

Introductions: The members of the JP Neighborhood Council introduced themselves. The reporter from The Bulletin introduced himself.

2. Approval of November 2023 minutes: Because the clerk was sick, the November minutes were not available for review.

3. Community announcements:

4. Committee Reports/Recommendations:

4.1. Outreach Committee: Katherine O’Shea, reported that the Committee met on December 12 via Zoom.

Motion to post the JPNC 1.01 slides to the JPNC website. Passed.

Zoning Reform Workshop/series: Katherine O’Shea said that at the December Outreach Committee meeting there was a desire expressed to learn more about the Squares + Streets zoning reform. She mentioned the idea of hosting someone from the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) to further discuss the zoning changes. It was agreed that Katherine O’Shea, Dave Baron, and Danielle Sommer Kieta would coordinate offline to plan something, since the Outreach, Zoning, and Housing & Development Committees were the primary committees that would potentially be dealing with the issue.

There was a discussion about the Office of Neighborhood Services Toy Drive. The deadline for the toy drive is December 22 (just one day after this meeting).

Katherine O’Shea and Renee Stacey Welch encouraged all Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs to attend the January 18 Executive Committee meeting.

The next Outreach Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

4.2. Public Service Committee: Michael Reiskind, Chair of the Committee was absent There was no report. The Public Service Committee met on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

The next Public Service Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2 at 7:00pm via Zoom. On the agenda will be two license requests: a request for the transfer of the beer & wine license of Miami Restaurant at 381 Centre Street to new owners at the same location and a request by Stoked Pizza for an all-alcohol license at 3484 Washington Street (former Doyle’s location)

4.3. Parks+ Committee: Nick Chaves reported that the Committee met on December 14 via Zoom. There were seven attendees. The Committee reviewed the survey sent out to members of the ListServ.

- The majority of respondents want to see the Committee focus on green space preservation/protection and advocacy to improve and upgrade existing parks (namely playgrounds).
- The Committee will work to clarify and update its scope, which will replace the current description on the JPNC website.

Motion to send a letter to the Parks Commissioner about lights in parks during winter months. Passed.

- The Committee had suggested other potential recipients (Stacy Thompson - LivableStreets Alliance, Corean Reynolds, Director of Nightlife Economy)
- Overall, members were satisfied with the content

Future communication will be sent via MailChimp from parks@jpnc.org

The next Parks+ Committee meeting will be on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

4.4. Zoning Committee (ZC): David Baron said that the Zoning Committee met twice - on December 6 and December 20. There are six votes being requested at tonight’s meeting. 1) 11 Edge Hill Street, a petition by Andrew Litchfield and Julian Hernandez, to renovate an existing single-family home including expanding living area into basement. The Zoning Committee recommended approval. 2) 615-619 Centre Street, a petition by Shary Browne/Shea Butter Smoothies (as agent for SJG-619 Realty Trust), to operate a smoothie bar with take-out. The Zoning Committee recommended approval with provisos: current business and business-owner only. 3) 75 McBride Street, a petition by Erin King and Nora Allen-Wiles, to remove and replace first-floor rear porch; current porch is 3’ x 5’; new porch is to be 11’ x 14’ with a roof. The ZC recommended approval. 4) 77 Woodland Road, a petition by Koji Yasuda to confirm occupancy as a single- family residence, renovate property, create two off-street parking spaces and storage area in basement; and add a second-floor addition. The ZC recommended approval. 5) 104 Child Street, a petition by Teresa Spillane, to construct an addition including a two-car garage and home office; the garage will connect to a second-floor workshop and storage area; add roof garden and solar panels to roof. The ZC recommended approval. 6) 61 Montebello Road, a petition by Adam Sarbaugh/Count of Montebello LLC, to construct a multi-family building with eight (8) residential units and nine (9) off-street parking spaces (7 garage spaces and 2 surface spaces). The ZC recommended denial.

Motion to approve the recommendations of the Zoning Committee on 11 Edge Hill Street, 615-619 Centre Street, 75 McBride Street, 77 Woodland Road, 104 Child Street, and 61 Montebello Road. Seconded and passed. The next Zoning Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00pm via Zoom. On the agenda will be requests from 470 Centre Street and 22 Rockview Street.

4.5. Housing & Development Committee (H&DC)/Arborway Yard Subcommittee: Danielle Sommer Kieta reported that the Housing & Development Committee met on December 19 via Zoom. Motion to approve sending a letter to the MBTA on the Arborway Yard. It was suggested that the motion needed some fine-tuning and rewording without changing the content. It could then go to the Executive Committee for approval. Motion withdrawn.

5. Old Business/New Business:

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Michael Reiskind

Next scheduled JPNC meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00PM via Zoom.

Next scheduled JPNC Executive Committee meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:00PM via Zoom.