

# East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

## General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021

**Location:** Virtual / Online

**Time:** 6:30 – 7:30 PM

### Agenda

#### - Neighborhood Announcements

- The State of the City address will be next week. It will be live streamed. People can connect through Boston.gov.
- Ken introduced local elected officials and members of the press.
- Ken introduced the board members including new board members Sabrina Sanz and Chris Johnson.

#### - Safety and Security

Report from the Boston Police Department. And Q&A.

- Captain Sweeney was not available for the Safety and Security update.
- Ken reported that overall crime is down in the neighborhood.
- Ken recognized Jane and Chris Brayton for their continuing efforts to pick up trash in Peters Park.

#### - Pine Street Inn

Request for neighborhood support on installing an electronic billboard along I-93.

- Aimee Coolidge from Pine Street Inn and Attorney Daniel Toscano gave a presentation regarding Pine Street's request for support for a billboard on the Women's Inn at 363 Albany Street.
  - The request is to change out the existing billboards for digital billboards.
  - Digital billboards will provide increased revenue to Pine Street.
  - Pine Street has applied for a zoning appeal. The hearing date has not been set.
- Daniel and Aimee answered questions from the community.
  - Light pollution was a concern for many people at the meeting, especially as it would affect East Berkeley Street abutters and South Boston residences facing the Albany Street billboard as well as light pollution in the general environment.
  - The new proposed billboards will be less bright than the existing billboards.
  - In addition, the new proposed billboards would be turned off between midnight and 5:00 AM unlike the existing billboards that are on 24/7.

**- State Rep Aaron Michlewitz**

- Rep. Michlewitz discussed current legislative issues. Highlights included:
  - Economic and other impacts of Covid-19 to the state
  - The state budget was delayed but finally approved. The budget is projected to have a \$3 billion gap.
  - The police reform bill
  - The Roe act, protecting and expanding reproductive rights on Massachusetts
- Rep. Michlewitz took questions from the audience.

**- Business Spotlight - Elite Training Group**

- Kris Kranzky and Steven Stewart offered information on Elite Training Group, their new business in the neighborhood. Elite Training will offer personalized exercise and weight training.
- They are requesting neighborhood support for a change of use variance for the space at 1242 Washington Street (opposite Peters Park), which was formerly occupied by Celebrity Barber Shop.
- They expect the majority of their clients will walk and not create traffic or a need for parking utilization.
- Ken noted there did not appear to be any objections from people at the meeting.