

## East Berkeley Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 5, 2021

**Location:** Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83734417632>

**Time:** 6:30 PM

### Attendance:

#### Executive Board Members:

Aimee Coolidge  
Chris Johnson, Secretary  
Frann Bilus  
John Connelly  
Ken Smith, President  
Leslie Fine, Vice President  
Sabrina Sanz  
Sarah Hutt  
Steve Berns  
Stuart Rose, Treasurer

#### Members of the Press:

Carrie Klein, *The Boston Guardian*

#### Government Representatives:

Ed Flynn, Boston City Councilor  
Sophia Wang, Policy Director from Councilor Ed Flynn's office  
Kim Crucioli, Neighborhood Liaison

### Minutes

- **Welcome, announcements**
  - Ken announced that we will try to meet in person for the November meeting if pandemic conditions allow. We will include a Zoom option. Decision will be confirmed prior to the November meeting.
  - The Peters Park Beautification Day is Saturday, October 16. Rain date: Sunday, October 17. Meet at 9:00 AM. Coffee and donuts will be provided compliments of Dunkin Donuts.
  - The BPDA is hosting a public meeting for the 1395-1405 Washington Street project on October 27. This is the location of the former Gallows Restaurant and Union Park Pizza on Washington St. (across from the Cathedral).
  - If you are a member, please remember to renew your dues. If you are not a member, please join.
  - If anyone is interesting in joining the executive board, please contact or speak to an existing executive board member or email us.
  
- **Holiday Party Poll**

- Leslie conducted a straw poll using the chat window to gauge how many people are interested in attending an in-person holiday party to be scheduled in December. Venegas and Company (on Harrison Ave.) has offered the use of their showroom for the party location.
- **BPD Safety and Security Report, Q&A**
  - There was no Safety and Security report this month.
- **Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn.**
  - Councilor Flynn discussed several issues that he has been working on and took questions from the members.
    - City and Neighborhood Services held a hearing on pest control and illegal dumping and its impact on quality of life and public health.
    - Construction site safety and after-hours work, when is it permitted and when is it not permitted?
    - Councilor Flynn is calling for a hearing on electric vehicles in the city and building out the related infrastructure (e.g., charging stations).
    - Constituent services is a principal focus in Councilor Flynn's office.
    - In most cases, Councilor Flynn follows and supports the opinions of the neighborhoods with regards to the development process, BPDA and zoning board issues, licensing requests, etc.
    - Councilor Flynn is up for re-election next month. He is running unopposed, but he would appreciate our vote.
  - Responses to questions:
    - Boston needs a greater commitment to pedestrian safety infrastructure.
    - Washington Street is the only street in the neighborhood where they do not tow cars for street cleaning. Councilor Flynn does not agree with towing cars for street cleaning but will continue to work on greater public understanding.
    - Can the city provide some sort of pedestrian protection on the bridges over the Mass Pike Extension (between the South End and China Town)? Councilor Flynn will look into it.
    - Councilor Flynn will meet with Mary during the Peters Park cleanup on October 16 to talk about trimming the bushes and trees in the park and how to get that done.
- **Boston Transportation Department - Harrison Ave. Redesign**
  - Dan Lesser was scheduled to attend the meeting and present the Harrison Ave. Redesign project, but he did not show up.
  - Ken Smith went over the presentation deck that Mr. Lesser had sent earlier.
    - The new design includes the removal of the median, reducing the travel lanes from four to two with a turn lane in the middle, and bike lanes separated by and protected by parking.
    - Engineering design work is expected to be done in Spring 2022.
    - The contract is expected to be advertised in Fall 2022.
    - Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2023.
  - Neighborhood Liaison Kim Crucoli announced that minor work on the Tremont Street Rebuild is scheduled to begin this fall. This will include handicap ramps and catch basins.

Major construction on the Tremont Street Rebuild is expected to begin in the spring 2022.

- **Business Spotlight - Epoc Studios**

- Kris Kranzky, Kyle Kranzky, and Tatiana Eckley presented their new business - Epoc Studios, which is a small-group training studio delivering a customizable, challenging, and effective fitness experience located at 1250 Washington St. (across from Peters Park).
- They introduced themselves and described their program and workout break down. Workouts are customized based on individual goals and abilities. They use Technology to offer real time biometric feedback.
- They are currently open six days a week with some morning and some evening sessions.
- They follow all COVID safety protocols. Class sizes are currently limited to six members at a time to maintain physical distancing.
- Their goal is to provide a welcoming and supportive environment to allow anyone to experience the benefits of exercise.

- **Fête for Crohn's & Colitis**

- Shiella Radel announced an event, the “Fête for Crohn's & Colitis,” which will be held on October 30. Sponsored by the New England Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. Information is available online.

- **Candidate for City Councilor At Large Ruthzee Louijeune**

- Ruthzee Louijeune introduced herself, presented her background, and discussed issues facing the city.
- She is a Boston native from Mattapan and Hyde Park.
- She attended Columbia University, Harvard Law School, and the Kennedy School.
- Top issues she mentioned were affordable housing, transit issues, climate justice, and the opioid crisis and conditions at Mass/Cass.
- Regarding the opioid crisis and conditions at Mass/Cass, she sees this as a humanitarian crisis. It is a regional problem that requires a regional approach. She believes the Governor needs to get involved and get other cities to step up and implement programs. State government can use funding pressure to get other towns to step up. She supports the appointment of a director whose responsibility it would be to focus on and coordinate resources and the response to the crisis.