

East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: February 1, 2022

Location: Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87964334578>

Time: 6:30 PM

Attendance:

Executive Board Members:

- Aimee Coolidge
- Chris Johnson, Secretary
- Frann Bilus
- John Connelly
- Ken Smith, Meeting Facilitator
- Leslie Fine, President
- Nancy Farrington
- Sarah Hutt

Members of the Press:

- Lauren Bennett, The Boston Sun

Government Representatives:

- Captain Sweeney, BPD
- Kim Crucoli, Neighborhood Liaison
- Sofia Wang, Policy Director for Councilor Ed Flynn

Agenda

- **Neighborhood Announcements**
 - Leslie reminded people to renew their memberships and updated us on several of the donations EBNA has made during the past year, including a contributions to the restaurant association and to Peters Park.
- **Safety and Security Report/Discussion, Boston Police Department, D-4**
 - Captain Sweeney, BPD D4, gave the safety and security update.
 - Crime is up 11% compared to the same period last year due to an increase in property crime.
 - Violent crime is unchanged.
 - Daily crime stats and period summaries are available online via BPD News. <https://bpdnews.com/?category=Crime+Stats>

- **Liquor License support request - The Troy**
 - Jim Cochener of Coda Restaurant Group and Ted Hawkins, General Manager of SRV, presented their request for support to transfer a liquor license to a new restaurant in the Troy.
 - The new restaurant will be The Salty Dog. It is moving into the space formerly occupied by Area 4.
 - The restaurant will be open seven days a week with brunch on Sundays.
 - The cuisine will be Mediterranean inspired with small plates for sharing.
 - They will offer a full bar, wine and beer.
 - The liquor license is to be transfer from Coda
 - No valet parking offered.
 - The currently licensed hours are 4 PM until 1 AM, seven days a week. Although the actual hours are still to be determined, they stated they would not be open until 1 PM seven days a week.
 - Residents of The Troy have been informed of the plans but no meeting has been scheduled yet.
 - Opening date TBD but hopefully this year in the fall.
 - The atmosphere will be upscale casual
 - Planned for table seating for 100 with 16 at the bar and patio seating for up to 20 on East Berkely Street.
 - Complaints were made about the existing dumpster at the former restaurant in that location. It was not monitored properly and was frequently overflowing, which attracted rodent and caused odor, especially in the summer. Cochener and Hawkins said they would work to remediate these issues.
 - They have not applied for the license transfer yet but will be applying within the next few weeks.
 - We concluded by asking Cochener and Hawkins to let us know what they need as far as a letter of support.

- **Business Spotlight: Berkshire Bank**
 1320 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118
 - Hans Bastien from Berkshire Bank spoke to the meeting about products and services offered by the bank and answered question from the members.
 - Berkshire Bank is a community banking, puts its money where its mouth is regarding community banking and philanthropic organizations and consumer customers.
 - As a neighborhood bank, service is handled locally within the branch.
 - They offer lending opportunities and product offerings for non-profit organizations.
 - The bank belongs to several ATM networks. Details are available on their website. They also offer a relationship account that reimburses for foreign ATM fees.
 - Notary services are available at the branch for customers as well as non-customers.

- One member complained that there was too much turnover among the tellers and that due to the lack of familiar faces, it didn't feel like a neighborhood bank anymore.
- **State Representative Jon Santiago**
 - We welcomed Massachusetts State Representative Jon Santiago to the meeting. His district currently includes much of the South End. When the new redistricting goes into effect, he will be the representative for much of the East Berkeley Neighborhood.
 - Rep. Santiago introduced himself, gave his background, and an overview of the recent redistricting.
 - In addition to being a state representative, he is also an emergency room physician at Boston Medical Center. That role bears on the issues that he brings to politics such as poverty, housing, etc.
 - Rep. Santiago discussed some of his priority issues.
 - Mass and Cass - advocacy to address issues and provide care and to decentralize services; working for decentralization, regionalization, and improvement of the systems to address the problems.
 - Development - Development usually falls to the city but Rep. Santiago works to elevate issues and organize people. He works closely with Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn.
 - Constituent services:
 - nick.bornstein@mahouse.gov - constituent services
 - cory.azmon@mahouse.gov - chief of staff
 - jon.santiago@mahouse.gov
 - Rep. Santiago took questions from the members.

N.B. The February 13, 2022 article from *The Boston Sun* about the monthly meeting is embedded here for reference.



EBNA Hears Liquor
License Request for N