

## East Berkeley Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023

**Location:** Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84754311538>

**Time:** 6:30 PM

### Attendance:

#### Executive Board Members:

Leslie Fine, President  
Stuart Rose, Treasurer  
Chris Johnson, Secretary  
David Fine  
Frann Bilus  
John Connelly  
Kate Chang, Pine Street Inn  
Paul Lewis  
Steve Berns

#### Government Representatives:

Captain Sweeney, BPD  
Sargent Matthew Hogardt, BPD  
Kim Crucoli, Neighborhood Liaison  
Sophia Wang, Policy Director for Councilor Ed Flynn (CORRECT NAME)

### Agenda

- **Welcome, announcements**
  - Leslie welcomed everyone and introduced the executive board.
- **Safety and Security - Boston Police Dept. D4**
  - Captain Sweeney reviewed crime statistics for the district.
    - Part 1 crime is up 3% YTD for the district.
      - Larceny from motor vehicles is driving the increase - people leaving property and large amounts of cash in their cars.
        - There were 28 over the past month.
      - Commercial burglaries down 36%
      - Residential burglaries down 60%
      - Aggravated assaults down 40%
        - These frequently occurring around Mass and Cass.
      - 1 homicide on Tremont St. (near the intersection of Hammond Street.)
    - BPD is currently prepping for the upcoming Boston Marathon.

- Sargent Matt Hogardt reviewed crime statistics specifically for our neighborhood.
  - Slight uptick in Part 1 crime YTD along with the better weather and more people outside, but the numbers are small overall - in the single digits for each category.
    - 2 assaults
      - 1 at Pine Street Inn
      - 1 at the Mobile station on Albany Street by an assailant known to the victim
    - 2 auto thefts
      - unlicensed child took the family car and the parent called to report the car stolen
      - keys left in the car inside a garage
    - 7 larcenies
      - 2 shop liftings
      - 2 package thefts
      - 1 personal property theft at Pine Street Inn
        - 2 bicycle thefts including 1 BlueBike theft of an improperly docked BlueBike (If anyone uses a BlueBike, make sure it's docked properly.)
  - Officers have increased their presence in Peters Park in an effort to discourage pot smoking, etc.
- Bicycle cops should be back out on the beat again very soon pending staffing and weather.
- A member requested that police officers in Peters Park get out of their vehicles and engage with the people in the park. Captain Sweeney said they are supposed to do that and he will reiterate that with the officers.
- **Business Spotlight:** Project Place - "Climb for a Cause" fundraiser at Fenway
  - Christian Miron from Project Place gave an overview and history of Project Place and their programs. Project Place promotes a community of hope and opportunity for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty by providing the skills, education and resources needed to obtain and sustain employment and housing.
  - Project Place is sponsoring the "Climb for a Cause" fundraiser at Fenway Park on Saturday, April 22. They are going to walk 1,545 steps to represent the individuals from Boston's annual survey of unhoused individuals.
    - Registration information can be found at [ClimbFenway.org](http://ClimbFenway.org). Participants can either pay a registration fee upfront or fundraise the registration fee (i.e., solicit donations).
  - Project Place has a variety of volunteer opportunities. A typically opportunity might be for someone to offer a workshop to their clients such as financial literacy or computer skills. Contact information is available on their website.

- **The Coda Restaurant Group**
  - Ted Hawkins and Jim Cochener from the Coda Restaurant Group presented their plans for a new restaurant in the Troy on East Berkeley Street (near the corner of Albany Street).
    - The new restaurant, to be named Baleia (Portuguese for "Whale"), will occupy the former Area 4 space. The menu will be inspired by Portuguese and North African cuisine.
    - The current plan is to offer dinner every night and brunch on Sundays. No lunch service planned at this time. They will have a full liquor license.
    - They are currently finalizing the design and hope to begin construction in May, finish in August, and open in September.
  
- **Proposed cannabis dispensary at Cathedral Station**
  - Johnathan Alves from Blackstone Franklin NA joined the meeting and asked for an update on EBNA's position on the proposed cannabis dispensary at Cathedral Station. Leslie provided an overview of the meetings and actions taken to date.
    - SEBA has taken a position against the Cathedral Station proposal concerned about the loss of another on-premise restaurant license.
  - Kim Crucoli indicated that the Cathedral Station proposal has not yet been presented to the BCB. (Update: The Cathedral Station proponent has submitted their application and is scheduled for the meeting on Wednesday, April 19.)
  
- **John Moran - Candidate for 9th Suffolk District House seat**
  - John Moran is running to fill former Rep. Jon Santiago's seat in the 9th Suffolk District. He presented his platform and answered questions.
  - John has lived in the South End for 24 years.
  - He believes he can apply his problem-solving skill from the corporate sector to the community sector.
  - Issues he's running on include:
    - Bringing about more middle-class affordable housing and what can the state do to bring about more resources and tools to increase ownership and build generational wealth.
    - Addressing mental health and addiction crises that are centered around Mass and Cass.
      - Bring additional tools and resources to build a world class recovery center
      - Leverage regional health clinics to decentralize services; decentralize needle exchange programs; decentralize clinics and recover centers away from the temptations of drugs
      - Fight for state money to address the problem
      - Create additional transitional housing
    - Basic quality of life issues - school funding, transportation, green space.

- Regarding the proposed cannabis dispensary at Cathedral Station and working with neighborhood associations on similar issues - John's approach would be to listen to all sides, understand the law, and to support the residents.
- The primary election is on May 2, and the special election is on May 30.