

# East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

## General Meeting Minutes

### MEETING DETAILS

**Date:** October 1, 2019

**Location:** Project Place, 1145 Washington Street

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM

### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members:** Ken Smith (President), Chris Johnson (VP), Bradley St. Amand (Secretary), John Connelly, Aimee Coolidge, Leslie Fine, Frann Bilus, Geoff Palmer, Sarah Hutt

**City Representatives:** Faisa Sharif (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services), Michael Tormey (Boston Transportation Department), Sophia Wang (Councilor Ed Flynn's Office)

**Press:** Boston Sun – Seth Daniel

## AGENDA ITEMS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meeting: Tuesday, November 5
- Representative Aaron Michlewitz rescheduled to November EBNA meeting
- Alex Tisserand – First Friday art show at Laconia Gallery, 6-8pm
- Duggan Hill – Boston City Lights adult classes, proceeds to benefit their summer program
- Sarah Hutt – looking for volunteers to help plant daffodils on November 1

### SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

**Presenter:** Officer Chris Schuler

**Notes:**

- 4 vehicle break-ins
- Breaking and Entering at 560 Harrison (Shawmut Construction). Snuck in via window at 3am
- Breaking and Entering at 1180 Washington (T-Mobile). Showed handgun
- Officers Schuler and Officer Litto are going to parks in the morning to clear out issues
- Small crime typically reduces with colder weather
- Large increase in car break-ins in the Back Bay area
- CVS at 345 Harrison is seeing a lot of theft
- Randolph Street has been a high target for vehicle break-ins

- Concerns noted by members
  - The park on Union Park Street is being overrun by homeless. Would be great to trim trees for better visibility.
  - Police call to 40 Traveler St (Sienna) took 3 calls and 53 minutes for response

**Actions Taken:** None

## **UPDATES FROM THE MAYORS OFFICE**

**Presenters:** Faisa Sharif – Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services

### **Notes:**

- Harrison Ave reconstruction from E Berkeley to Herald
  - Two projects ongoing that need to be completed first
    - Quinn Development
    - Utility work for Cushing / 1000 Washington St
  - Design complete and funded
  - Will go out for bid when the projects are complete (can not happen before)
  - The bid process typically takes 1 month, but the winter moratorium could impact the timeline
- 2-way Traveler Street
  - Start of project is imminent
  - Need to begin with ramps, signals, etc. Hoping to have that part done this Fall before the moratorium.
- Blue Bikes in parking spaces in front of Peter’s Park
  - City performed outreach process in 2017 about expanding Hubway (now Blue Bikes)
  - Peter’s Park was identified as one area in need of added capacity
  - City would prefer to have on sidewalk. They tried to permit a location across the street, but neighbors objected at Landmarks hearing. Resulted in utilizing 2 parking spaces.
  - Station only active for 2 months and has already recorded 2053 trips the past month.
  - Will need to remove for winter (mid-November).
  - Location suggestions from members
    - Inside park – permitting and dealing with parks department a concern
    - Concrete pad where Landwave was located
    - Shawmut side of Peter’s Park, opposite current location.
  - Faisa agreed that additional bike racks would be nice, but noted the difficulty in permitting and that it would mean a 1-to-1 removal of parking. New buildings coming on-line have bike storage requirements.
- Ming’s Market Zoning Board of Appeals hearing – October 8, 9:30 am at City Hall (room 801)
  - Agendas come out on Thursday prior
  - Proposed change of use to include warehouse storage of food (currently autobody shop)
  - ZBA mails out notices directly, not the Mayor’s Office
  - Email [faisa.sharif@boston.gov](mailto:faisa.sharif@boston.gov) with concerns
  - Multiple neighbors expressed concern with the proposed use and turning poorly maintained buildings into storage. It poses a long-term detrimental affect to the neighborhood. When the area was re-zoned, this was not the intent.
  - Multiple neighbors also expressed concern with Ming’s behavior and cleanliness

- Other member questions and suggestions
  - Update requested on Druker's project on East Berkeley and Washington. It has been years since approval was given and the neighborhood should approach BDPA for an update.
  - Parking on the median in front of Whole Foods still an issue
  - The camera-like object at the E Berkeley and Harrison intersection. Unsure what it is, possibly for traffic monitoring. Faisa would love support for the Mayor's plan to photo plates for traffic violations.
  - Lack of parking enforcement, especially on Sundays. Noted it is a city-wide issue.
  - Amazon should not leave items outside buildings
  - Call to prohibit parking along right side of E Berkeley
  - Lack of parking signs on Washington in the Peter's Park area
  - Cars not being towed for street cleaning. There was a City ordinance to increase fines, but that received pushback. They also pushed for overnight towing, but that did not pass.

**Actions Taken:** Faisa to address parking on Harrison median, take back suggestions on alternate Blue Bike locations, and provide an update on Ming's hearing. EBNA to contact BPDA regarding Druker project update.

#### **UPDATE FROM BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**Presenters:** Michael Tormey – BTM

**Notes:**

- New transit team, supported by an increase in parking tickets
- BTM collaborating with MBTA to improve transit service
- 2019-2020 budget includes funding to repaint bus lanes
  - Will focus on Silverline
  - Next May to early Summer
  - Priorities include Essex/Downtown and Washington Street in the South End
  - Updated pavements markings, curb regulations, and signage with new standards
  - Looking at ways to identify and limit double parking
- Multiple members note the rules are very confusing regarding bus lanes and the lack of attention paid to dirty bus stops and growing drug use.

**Actions Taken:** None

#### **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT - iCATER**

**Presenters:** Erin Connors, Sales Manager at iCater

**Notes:**

- A social enterprise of Pine Street Inn
- Located between the men and women's shelters
- Only 5% traditional catering, 95% is feeding other non-profits

- Revenue funds job training
  - 15-17 people every 8 weeks
  - 50% complete the program
- Some grants, but largely self-funded through catering contracts

**Actions Taken:** None