

East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

General Meeting Minutes

MEETING DETAILS

Date: October 16, 2018

Location: Project Place, 1140 Washington Street

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ken Smith (President), Chris Johnson (VP), Stuart Rose (Treasurer), Bradley St. Amand (Secretary), John Connelly, Arthur Coe, Nancy Farrington, Aimee Coolidge, Sarah Hutt, Mark Anderson

City Representatives: Faisa Sharif (Mayor's SE Liason)

Press: Seth Daniel (Boston Sun)

AGENDA ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 535 Albany Street art opening - November 2 (First Friday)
- South End Soccer Fundraiser – October 27
- Final SoWa Open Market – October 28
- South End Love Your Block – November 10
- Pine Street registered 80 people to vote and will be helping get them to poles

UPDATES

Presenter: Ken Smith

Notes:

- Discussion regarding alternating venues and inclusion of More Than Words space. General agreement for both.
- Discussion regarding holidays meeting dates. Slight preference for keeping the 3rd Tuesday instead of moving the date.
- Will have 3 upcoming board seats in January
- Goals accomplished
 - Strong, active board
 - Name change and rebranding

- Moving Landwave
- E Berkeley Congestion – pilot program in place for no parking (6am-6pm)

Actions Taken:

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Presenter: Officer Pagan

Notes:

- Break-in with door left unlocked and husband asleep
- Multiple vehicle break-ins
- Discussion about arrest and moped removals from Faye Street lot

Actions Taken:

FLOWER EXCHANGE UPDATE

Presenter: Bill Keravuori, The Abbey Group

Notes:

- Have approval from BPDA, next step to Zoning Commission
- Still in process of MEPA filing. Required to provide supplement report, focused on Frontage Road connection and traffic impact.
- Preparing to start “need analysis” and assemble panel to determine use for the 30,000 sf of cultural space.
- Phase 1 (front two smaller buildings) could go forward without anchor tenant. Activity could happen as soon as May, with mid-summer construction.
- Noted transportation commitments in response to traffic concerns
 - Re-signaling of lights
 - Albany Redesign
 - Harbor Trail connection
 - Hopeful of BRT on Albany

Actions Taken:

RELATED BEAL UPDATE

Presenter: Did not catch names

Notes:

- Former Quinzani site: 373-380 Harrison
- 101 condos, 172 rentals, 10,000 sf ground floor retail
- 3 levels of parking – 180 spaces
- 3 retail spaces, hoping for restaurant on corner of Harrison & Traveler

- Sidewalks open, using median
- Increasing workforce from 20 to 50 workers shortly
- Have removed 80% of soil, moving to foundation work next week, completing bracing
- No more pile driving
- Tower crane coming December
- Will work to have sidewalk replaced leading toward Troy building
- Expect to be out of ground April 2019
- Estimate summer 2020 for completion
- There are display cases on E Berkeley with info and schedules
- Field office is at 401 Harrison – stop in with any concerns
- Concerns raised about Police Detail control of traffic and pedestrians
- Thanks given to contribution to Peter's Park and responsiveness to neighbors

Actions Taken:

CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Presenter: Oscar Santos and Armani (student)

Notes:

- Independent urban Catholic School, established 1926
- No funding from Church, only independent fundraising
- 320 students, grades 7-12
- Last 15 years, 100% graduation and college enrollment rate
- 75% graduate in 4 years since 2014 data collection
- Just completed 15,000 sf buildings for STEAM applied learning (science, engineering, arts, math)
- All students perform community service
- Request for internship opportunities for students and for student mentors
- Armani gave wonderful speech about benefits gained from working at Connelly Partners (marketing agency in the South End).
- Upcoming fundraising events
 - Adult / Student Dinner
 - Golf Tournament
 - Oscar's marathon team

Actions Taken:

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: URBAN HOUND

Presenter: Cancelled due to illness

Notes:

Actions Taken:

200 SHAWMUT PARKING

Presenter: Attorney David Gottlieb, on behalf of Stanhope Garage

Notes:

- Current Use of Premises expires December 31, 2018
- Applied in April for new UOP. Undergoing neighborhood review process.
- Has met with Lucas building, abutters, and Eight Streets NA
- UOP to cover until 2021
- 89 vehicles – open to public
- Has promised to staff overnight attendant for security purposes
- Vocal concerns raised about cleanliness
 - Presenter noted that they would focus on cleanliness, landscaping and security
- Questions raised regarding relationship with Druker (property owners) and the lease terms
 - Presenter noted they are lessee and are seeking UOP through 2021
 - Presenter refused to answer questions regarding terms of the leases
- Question raised regarding Druker's project approval, how long approvals remain valid, and if he would be required to begin the article 80 process again to move forward. Some members thought he would need to start over, but were not certain.

Actions Taken: Ken to reach out to Faisa and BPDA to get confirmation on the status of Druker's approval, how long approvals remain valid, and if he would be required to restart the article 80 process.