

East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

General Meeting Minutes

MEETING DETAILS

Date: February 4, 2020

Location: Project Place, 1145 Washington Street

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ken Smith (President), Bradley St. Amand (Secretary), John Connelly, Aimee Coolidge, Sarah Hutt, Frann Bilus, Geoff Palmer, Steve Berns

City Representatives: Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George, Sophia Wang (Councilor Ed Flynn's Office), Faisa Sharif (Mayor's Office - South End Liaison)

Press: Boston Sun – Seth Daniel

AGENDA ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome new board VP Leslie Fine, new board member Steve Berns.
- Ken Smith to remain president, Bradley St. Amand to remain secretary, Stuart Rose to remain treasurer.
- March meeting will include the new restaurant group for Southern Proper space – which will now be called Atlantico.
- Pile driving to begin in coming weeks at Flower Exchange project on Albany Street.
- Looking for volunteers to help with neighborhood activities, such as event coordination, social planning and membership recruitment. Speak to Ken if interested.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, March 3 at Project Place.

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE – CANCELLED

Presenter:

Notes:

- No officer in attendance to provide update

Actions Taken:

CITY COUNCILOR ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE

Presenters: Annissa Essaibi-George, Malaika Lucien (Director of Communications)

Notes:

- At-Large city Councilor, starting 3rd term
- Chair of Committee on Education
 - Was a former teacher for 13 years
 - Policy initiatives to provide healthy and safe learning environments and increase support services
 - Secured funding for full-time nurses in every school (44 did NOT previously have a full-time nurse)
 - Prioritizing behavioral and mental health services in schools
 - Auditing school transportation budget, improving efficiency and equity
 - Improving process for individualized Education Plans
 - 3.5 billion city budget, approx 1/3 goes to schools
- Former Chair of Committee on Homelessness, Mental Health & Recovery
 - Homeless will now fall under housing committee
 - Mental health and recovery will now fall under public health committee
 - Will still focus heavily on this issue – advocating to end family homelessness and mental health services available for all ages.
- Staff attends every ZBA hearing – please contact if you an opinion on an upcoming project
- Email a.e.george@boston.gov; malaika.lucien@boston.gov

Actions Taken:

UPDATE FROM THE MAYORS OFFICE

Presenters: Faisa Sharif

Notes:

- Complaints made about Alex's Pizza not adhering to new 3:00 am hours, the abutters process, and cleanliness in front of store.
 - Faisa claims abutters all notified, no complaints raised at abutters meeting or ZBA hearing, no history of issues with Alex's, and no liquor license. Thus, approval was granted.
 - 3:00am license means doors must close at that time, but patrons may stay until 3:30am.
 - Licensing board has sent inspectors twice – found no violations (as of last week).
 - Did let them know they are on thing ice in regards to driver noise issues and double parking.
 - Please call 911 to register complaints. If they are caught in violation, they will be brought before the licensing board for a hearing.
- Traveler / Washington 2-way development – have been working on curbing and signals. Will begin work in full force this Spring.
- No updates on Harrison Ave development, but monitoring progress with the Quinn and 1000 Washington.

- Street cleaning resumes on March 1. City looking to adjust the schedule so that even side of street is done on even weeks, and vice versa. Days would not change.
- Looked into alternate locations for the Blue Bikes by Peter's Park. ADA issues present on Shawmut side of park. Working with Parks Department to ideally place in previous Land Wave location. Bike may return to prior position, but only temporary.
- Boston experienced first case of Coronavirus. Public meeting to be held on Friday, February 7 at the Josiah Quincy School at 6:30pm. Boston public health officials will attend.
- Member questions and comments:
 - Rumor that Blackjack Pasta has applied for a late night license.
 - Waltham/Washington intersection was done with wrong pole color and bricks.
 - Faisa agreed. Noted that MassDOT was the contractor as federal funds were used. Led to some disconnect.
 - 311 operators can't easily locate Peter's Park.
 - Whole Foods parking situation still a major issue.

Actions Taken: Faisa to follow-up with Alex's regarding cleanliness in front of store; confirm/deny Blackjack application rumor; and speak to 311 regarding Peter's Park location. Sophia Wang to look into Whole Foods parking situation.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT – DENTAL DESIGNS

Presenters: Dr. James Seligman

Notes:

- Located at 1180 Washington Street (Laconia Lofts)
- Graduated from Tufts
- Small independent practice
- One-stop shop
- Has periodontist on staff
- Taking new patients!

Actions Taken: None

MEMBER BRAINSTORMING AND INPUT

Presenters: Ken Smith

Notes:

- Do members prefer monthly meetings, even if agenda is light, or less frequent meetings
 - Straw Poll taking – unanimously in favor of keeping monthly meetings
- Ideas for new agenda items or topics
 - Suggestion to have a follow-up on old business

Actions Taken: None