

# East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

## General Meeting Minutes

### MEETING DETAILS

**Date:** June 18, 2019

**Location:** AC Hotel, 225 Albany Street

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM

### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members:** Ken Smith (President), Chris Johnson (VP), Bradley St. Amand (Secretary), Stuart Rose (Treasurer), John Connelly, Aimee Coolidge, Leslie Fine, Frann Bilus

**City Representatives:** Sophia Wang (Ed Flynn's Office)

**Press:** Boston Sun – Seth Daniel

## AGENDA ITEMS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No meetings in July or August
- Will be switching to the first Tuesday of each month, starting in September
- Patio Fest @ AC Hotel – Sunday, June 23, 12-6pm – live music, games, food, Castle Island beer
- New AC Hotel general manager – Kevin Matheson
- Pine Street Inn job training Graduation – June 20, 11am, keynote speaker Rep. Michlewitz
- WGMS Summer Solstice – June 20 @ Blackstone Square – music, food, beer

### SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

**Presenter:** Officer Pagan

#### **Notes:**

- Capital One Café - guy outside pulled a knife. Policed called and suspect arrested.
- CVS on Tremont – theft, suspect returned and got into fight with manager, threw needles. Dropped his stuff. Not arrested, but police have photos.
- Pine Street Inn – two thefts / pickpocket incidents
- 2 domestic violence calls – mother on mother, father on son
- Tremont Street – vehicle break-in
- Body found burnt on Shawmut, believe homeless person trying to keep warm

#### **Actions Taken:**

## **WHOLE FOODS**

**Presenter:** Chris – Assistant General Manager

### **Notes:**

- Have not approached Tufts about satellite parking. Have used Graybar site before.
- Employees not supposed to use parking lot (only leadership). Dealt with when found.
- Member suggestion to delineate center walkway from car blockage.
- Monitoring Amazon shoppers. Supposed to park in back, but concede it's not happening.
- Claim that police details unreliable.
- Security aware of table squatters, but being careful to ask to leave.
- Playroom removed to add more seating and Amazon lockers
- Per Ted Tye:
  - City pushed back on number of spaces (100)
  - Store doing very well
  - Intent was for traffic improvements to happen when Ink Block finished, but City pushed back for 345 Harrison and now Related Beal.
  - When improvements done, center median will be removed.

**Actions Taken:** WF will look into satellite parking options, look into center walkway delineation, monitor Amazon shopper parking, and will speak with security about table squatters.

## **MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL**

**Presenter:** Brandon Gibbs

### **Notes:**

- Presentation on group's campaign to lower healthcare costs as well as working to simplify the Mass Health application.
- Request to pressure Rep. Michlewitz to lower prescription drug costs and SNAP limits.

**Actions Taken:**

## **STATE SENATOR SONIA CHANG-DIAZ**

**Presenter:** Sonia Chang-Diaz

### **Notes:**

- Focused on education reform and funding, which has not been updated in 25 years, and the disparity between have and have-not communities.
- Focused on housing, affordability, and gentrification.
- Noted incremental victories in State budget in regards to new treatment centers.
- Well aware of substance abuse issues and the density of services in the South End.
- Noted that the standards of Roe v Wade have been codified in State law.

- Does not believe Gov Baker has sense of urgency regarding transportation, especially Mass Transit. Disagrees that it is management rather than funding. Part of issue is the rest of the State doesn't benefit from Mass Transit or Boston centric issues.
- House and Senate took vote to change tax law for millionaires, with express purpose to fund transportation / infrastructure. Passed last week. Will take 4 years to appear on ballot, but could generate 2 billion.
- In regards to State funding for police – it is part of unrestricted government aid, which State does not dictate exact use (i.e. police, fire, schools, roads, etc).

### **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT – WASHINGTON GATEWAY MAIN STREET**

**Presenter:** Andrew Maydoney, director

**Notes:**

- New director Andrew Maydoney introduced himself to the group, spoke briefly about WGMS's efforts to support South End businesses, and put out a call for potential board members.