



Board Attendance

P = present, A = absent, NA = notified/excused absence					
Leigh Bivings	P	Bill Gregor	P	David Mundel	NA
Betsy Boveroux	P	Betsy Hall	P	Joe Park	P
Matt Carroll	P	Michael Hall	P	Susan Passoni	P
Paul Duffy	P	Kyle Hancock	P	Bruce Petri	P
Kathy Emrich	P	John Herbert	P	Peter Pogorski	P
William Fastow	P	Roz Hill	P	Kimball Robeson	P
Jay Fogarty	NA	Barbara Hoffman	P	Sandra Silver	NA
Beth Freeland	NA	Gordon Holmes	P	Carol Trust	P
Jennifer Girvin	P	Abby Johnson	P		
Tony Gordon	P	Mary Lionette	NA		

Guests: Allison Nichols, Winn Development, Kevin Lampron, J.F. White Contracting Co., Mary Knasas, BRA, Alison Lapp, Boston Courant, Elissa Pogorski

Welcome

Leigh Bivings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

1. Columbus Center Construction Update -

Kevin Lampron, Project Manager for the construction of the decks over the Turnpike, gave an overview of the project. The work includes installing pilings and bringing in concrete to build the decks. Drilling has already begun on Parcel 16. Kevin reported that most of the work will be done from the Turnpike. It will be done at night, and drilling for the pilings will create very little noise. He is aiming to minimize disruption to the neighborhood and is happy to be contacted if people in the neighborhood have concerns. The contact numbers are:

Field Office: (617) 426-0353
 24 Hr Hotline (617) 719-4886
 Email: info@columbuscenter.com

Project Website: www.columbuscenter.com (for work schedule updates)
 He mentioned that he has meetings every week with a committee of neighborhood representatives, including the Ellis representative, John Herbert. John commented that the company was very responsive whenever there was a concern.

The work will take about three years and the follow-up contractors who will build on top of the decks may begin work on the completed decks before all the decks are finished.

Tony Gordon commented that he thought that work would not start on the construction above the decks until all the decks have been completed. He will follow up on this.

2. Executive Committee Update -

Kyle Hancock, President, announced that Police District D-4 Advisory Council is meeting on Saturday, January 26 to discuss the priorities for 2008. She had no new developments to report on the Atelier parking issue .

Leigh Bivings announced that nominations for the next Board can be emailed to her.

The minutes from prior Board meetings were discussed and accepted with minor modifications.

Leigh reported, on behalf of Sandra Silver, Treasurer, that, as is usual at this time of the year, there have been few expenses.

3. PruPAC Discussion and Vote -

Kathy Emrich, our PruPAC representative, reported that the January 14th PruPAC meeting concerning the proposed development at 888 Boylston Street and on Exeter Street was cancelled because of a snowstorm. It has been rescheduled for January 23rd. At this meeting the Committee will discuss items that should be addressed by the developers before their next public filing. A letter will be sent to the BRA outlining these items. Neighborhood associations such as the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) have voiced strong oppositions to the plans. She reviewed the key points of the Ellis position and asked for the Board's input. These key points deal with such issues as the height of the buildings, the shadows that would be caused by them and plans for the public plaza in front of the Prudential Center.

Tony Gordon felt that further studies need to be undertaken on the design of the buildings and the plaza and that any vote taken should be a general one rather than concentrating on specific issues. It was agreed that it is important to show solidarity with NABB, who represent the neighborhood that will be most impacted by these buildings.

A motion was proposed by Kathy and seconded by Peter Pogorski that "The Ellis Board should continue to support NABB and that we support the request for further studies in order that a workable compromise can be found". The motion was passed.

4. Other Committees -

-Development

John reported that seven out of the nine units at 79 Chandler have been sold.

-Marketing and Communications

Susan Passoni mentioned that details concerning Boricuas en Action's (IBA) 40th Anniversary Celebration on March 29th can be found on our website.

-Groundwater

Peter announced that the MBTA will be holding its last public workshop to discuss its Groundwater Action Plan on January 30th at the Boston Renaissance Public Charter School. Flyers will be delivered to all homes in the Ellis neighborhood. Our attendance at the meeting is needed to reinforce our collective concern that this plan move forward with speed and diligence.

-Membership

Will Fastow reported that he and Beth are working on launching the Welcome Wagon. Leigh reported that as of December 31st we have 276 memberships and 414 members.

-Events

Micheal Hall announced that seven restaurants have signed up to participate in the Progressive Dinner on February 11th. The cost, which will be payable on our website, will be \$90 per person.

-Nominating Committee

Gordon Holmes reported that the committee is asking both the Board and the general membership for nominations.

-Green Committee

Betsy Hall reported that work is going ahead to purchase multi-use cloth shopping bags with the Ellis logo printed on them. She announced that the first Green Forum will be on “Tree preservation in our neighborhood”.

Conclusion and adjournment

The next Board meeting will be on February 26, 2008 .
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hoffman