



Board Attendance

P = present, A = absent, NEA = notified/excused absence					
Leigh Bivings	P	Tony Gordon	P	David Mundel	P
Betsy Boveroux	A	Bill Gregor	P	Mike Nairne	NEA
Matt Carroll	P	Betsy Hall	P	Joe Park	P
Paul Duffy	P	Kyle Hancock	P	Susan Passoni	NEA
Kathy Emrich	P	John Herbert	P	Bruce Petri	P
William Fastow	A	Roz Hill	P	Peter Pogorski	P
Jay Fogarty	NEA	Gordon Holmes	P	Kimball Robeson	P
Beth Freeland	P	Bill Keravuori	A	Sandra Silver	P
Jennifer Girvin	P	Chuck Levin	P	Sandy Slarsky	A
		Mary Lionette	P		

Guests:

Aaron Michlewitz, Speaker DiMasi's Office
 Jim Robertson, developer 79 Chandler Street
 Derek Cavanaugh, John Fabiano

Welcome

Leigh Bivings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:27PM.

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

1. **Executive Committee Update** - Leigh reviewed the plans for the Annual Meeting, to be held at the Community Music Center on May 22, 2007. Leigh announced that Jim Hunt (Chief of Environmental and Energy Services for the City of Boston) will speak at the meeting and Joe Park will be the recipient of the Ellis' Arthur Howe Community Service Award.

Leigh asked Board Members to review the new website and communicate their comments and suggestions to Kathy Emrich so that the current version of the new website can be updated

The Board voted to accept the minutes for the March 26, 2007 Board meeting with minor editorial revisions.

Beth Freeland, Treasurer, reviewed the Ellis' monthly financial report and noted that her outlook for the Ellis' budget for the remainder of the current year remained optimistic.

Sandra Silver reminded Board Members that membership renewal process was about to begin and that it is important that all Board Members personally recruit new Ellis members.

2. **Ellis 2006-2007 Goals and Initiatives** - Gordon Holmes reviewed a second part of guidelines developed by the fund raising task force. After a discussion of this part of the task force's report (see Attachment A to these minutes), the Board voted to accept the report and thank the task force members for their efforts to provide an organized set of fund raising guidelines for the Ellis.

Kimball Robeson reviewed the recent activities and future plans of the Young Friends of Ellis.

3. **Nominating Committee Report** – Bill Gregor (on behalf of Committee Chair, Mike Nairne) reviewed the Committee’s activities and recommendations for Board Members and Officers for 2007-2008 (see Attachment B to these minutes). Following a discussion of the Committee’s recommendations, the Board voted to thank the Committee for its efforts and to support the Committee’s recommendations that will be presented to the Ellis at the Annual Meeting in May.
4. **Development Committee Update** – John Herbert, Committee Chair, reported that he and Sandra Silver had met with the BRA about the Stuart Street Corridor planning study, agreed to in the Clarendon approval process. The Ellis will be asked to nominate a member of the advisory committee for this study.
5. **Neighborhood Services Committee Update** – Matt Carroll reviewed the plans for the upcoming Spring clean-up and the ongoing implementation of the Ellis’ block captain program. David Mundel reviewed a meeting with residents of 56-60 Berkeley Street and a representative of the Mayor’s Office to discuss the status of the adjacent buildings on Berkeley Street that is no longer occupied by the Hotel Workers’ Union.
6. **Groundwater Committee Update** – Peter Pogorski reviewed the current status of the effort to draft legislation giving property owners a legal right to the maintenance of ground water levels beneath their buildings and the ongoing groundwater recharge efforts underway in the Casenove-Chandler-St Charles Street area. Peter also noted that plans for a long term solution to the MBTA drawdown problem and leaking sewers on Tremont Street were still under review.

Peter noted the importance of Speaker DiMasi’s efforts to maintain and increase the State’s attention directed groundwater issues. The Board joined Peter in thanking the Speaker for his continued efforts on behalf of the Ellis and other South End neighborhoods affected by low groundwater levels.

7. **Ellis Events Update** – Mary Lionette reviewed the success of the recent Easter Basket Hunt in which over 70 neighborhood children and grand children participated. A great time was had by all children and adults who attended.

Mary also mentioned that the South End Youth Baseball League season was about to begin – **GO ELLIS ANGELS!**

Conclusion and adjournment

The next Board meeting will be the Ellis’ Annual Meeting on May 22, 2007 at the Community Music Center on Warren Avenue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Mundel, Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

As Accepted by Board of Directors at its April 24, 2007 Board Meeting

Thoughts and Ideas related to Fundraising by the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association

Prepared by the Fundraising Task Force- Gordon Holmes, Chair

Backdrop

- The changing demographics and interests of Ellis residents
- Many people become “connected” to Ellis through social events
- As neighborhood turnover increases, so does the need to attract new members and contributors
- Attendance at events over the last several years seems to have leveled at about 125 people

Overall Approach to Fundraising Activities

- Simpler is better
- It should be fun, not burdensome, for the people working on it
- Ask the full Board to accept responsibility, both financially and work-wise
 - It is important to include Board buy-in, and participation, as appropriate to the event
- Spread the workload
- Think small (6 events, each netting \$1,000, contribute as much as one event netting \$6,000. At the same time, they may attract six different groups of people.)

Proposed Action Plan

- Identify the issues and projects which concern neighbors and toward which they will contribute
 - Groundwater
 - Development
 - Trash
 - Parking
 - Safety
- Add verbiage on the Ellis website, explaining the need for contributions to support the activities and mission of Ellis
- At certain events, such as a groundwater forum, ask for donations to help support that activity
- Publicize Ellis activity on significant issues (e.g., South End News, Back Bay Courant)
- Establish a fundraising committee, to serve as a liaison to other committees. Ask each committee to consider fundraising possibilities in its planning each year and then talk with the fundraising committee as to how these ideas might be implemented.
- Hold each major fund raiser around a specific issue and only if someone(s) is willing to do it
- Reserve two unfilled Board seats for persons who want to join and chair a major fund raiser
- Add a fundraising element to selected social and other committee activities

- Auction a case of wine at the end of a wine tasting evening, with proceeds to Ellis
 - Add \$10 to the cost of the progressive dinner (“for the support of Ellis”)
- Consider outings and trips. Add, and publicize, a fundraising element to the cost
 - Fenway Park
 - Sakonnet Vineyard
 - Foxwoods and/or Mohegan Sun
 - Bowling evening
- Consider joint fundraising events with other organizations, such as NABB or BCA
- Celebrate neighborhood events (e.g., grand opening of The Beehive) with a reception that includes a significant contribution to Ellis
- Coordinate with the membership committee, to determine how membership events can be used (a) to explain the significance of membership support and (b) to solicit contributions
- Ask neighborhood businesses to contribute, as appropriate, to selected activities, and recognize them for their contribution

Ongoing Items to Ponder

- What sources of funding exist outside the membership?
- How many times can you “go to the well” and ask for contributions?
How much can we expect Boards members to contribute, both financially and energy-wise?

Attachment B

Ellis South End Neighborhood Association Nominating Committee Report

I. Retiring Officer and Directors:

- **Kathy Emrich** will be stepping down as President after serving for two years, but will remain on the Board.
- **Bill Keravuori, Mike Nairne** and **Sandra Slarsky** will be retiring from the Board.
- There are currently two empty Board positions.

II. Nominations for 2007-2008 Board of Directors

- A. New President: **Kyle Hancock**, Dartmouth Street
- B. Chair: **Leigh Bivings**, Chandler Street
- C. New Vice Presidents: **Beth Freeland**, Union Park and **David Mundel**, Gray Street
- D. New Treasurer: **Sandra Silver**, Tremont Street
- E. New Clerk: **Barbara Hoffman**, St. Charles Street
- F. New Directors:

1. **Michael Hall**, Clarendon Street
Michael has been a former Ellis board member and Treasurer.
2. **Barbara Hoffman**, St. Charles Street
Barbara has been active with the Wine Group and is graciously willing to be Clerk.
3. **Abby Johnson**, Chandler Street
Abby has been an active contributor on the Membership Committee.
4. **Carol Trust**, Chandler Street
Carol has assisted with the fundraiser and acted as a mistress of ceremonies

G. *All Nominees for 2007-08 BOD* (attached)

III. Considerations and recommendations for nominating future officers and directors

A. *Review of current BOD*

The current Board of Directors should be evaluated based on the following considerations:

1. Attendance record of individual members
2. Active participation on committees or related Ellis activities
3. Tenure

The Board should also be reviewed as a whole to determine if there are gaps that need to be filled to strengthen the Board. For example: 1) Does the existing Board of Directors have the skill sets needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the Ellis NA? 2) Are there directors with leadership potential who may be able to assume the position of President or Chair at a future point in time? If gaps in the Board are identified, there should be an effort to nominate new board members who can fill these gaps.

B. *Selection criteria for new Directors*

The following criteria were developed by the nominating committee to be used as a guide for selecting potential new Board members:

1. Must be a resident of the Ellis Neighborhood
2. Must be a member of the ESNA
3. Must show commitment to the neighborhood and interest in the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association
4. Must actively contribute to the community
5. Should have involvement in other neighborhood or city organizations
6. Must offer skill sets needed to compliment those of the existing Board of Directors, e.g., architect, communications
7. Should have leadership skills
8. Residential location should be considered, i.e., focus on under-represented sections of the Ellis

Recommendations for future Nominating Committees

1. Select the Nominating Committee at the beginning of each new term (along with all of the other Ellis Committees) and obtain Board approval in September. This will allow more time to identify strong new candidates for the following year's Board. Also, if there is a vacancy on the Board during the year, due to the resignation of a Director or Officer, the nominating committee can assist in filling that position.
2. To ensure that the recommendations and considerations described in this report are conveyed to the new Nominating Committee next year, it would be prudent to have at least one member of the current Nominating Committee serve on next year's committee.
3. Ideally, a new President or Chair should be someone who has had the previous experience of serving as one of the Vice Presidents on the Executive Committee. Therefore, it should be important to evaluate each Vice Presidential nominee, as a potential future President or Chair, for leadership potential and willingness to assume either office after completion of the Vice Presidential term of office.
4. The bylaws state that no person shall hold the office of President or Chair for more than two one year terms within a ten year period. There are frequently a number of Board members who have held one or the other of these offices within the past ten years, thus reducing the available candidates for office. Since former Presidents and Chairs have frequently remained on the Board after the end of their terms as officers, the number of eligible directors has diminished over the past several years, which has made it increasingly difficult to fill these positions.

To help alleviate this problem in the future, the Nominating Committee recommends that the bylaws be amended to reduce the restriction of holding these offices from the current two terms per ten years to two terms per six years. This change would make former Presidents and Chairs eligible to run again sooner.

**Ellis South End Neighborhood Association
Proposed Board Officers and Directors for 2007-2008
and List of Members Retiring from the Board**

	Title	Name	Address
	<u>Officers:</u>		
1	President	Kyle Hancock	Dartmouth Street
2	Chair	Leigh Bivings	Chandler Street
3	Vice President	Beth Freeland	Union Park
4	Vice President	David Mundel	Gray Street
6	Clerk	Barbara Hoffman	St. Charles Street
5	Treasurer	Sandra Silver	Tremont Street
7	<u>Incumbent Directors:</u>	Betsy Boveroux	Appleton Street
8		Matt Carroll	Chandler Street
9		Paul Duffy	Gray Street
10		Kathy Emrich	Montgomery Street
11		Will Fastow	Gray Street
12		Jay Fogarty	Appleton Street
13		Jennifer Girvin	Chandler Street
14		Tony Gordon	Stanhope Street
15		Bill Gregor	Appleton Street
16		Betsy Hall	Clarendon Street
17		John Herbert	Gray Street
18		Roz Hill	Tremont Street
19		Gordon Holmes	Clarendon Street
20		Chuck Levin	Appleton Street
21		Mary Lionette	Clarendon Street
22		Joe Park	West Canton Street
23		Susan Passoni	Chandler Street
24		Bruce Petri	Appleton Street
25		Peter Pogorski	St. Charles Street
26		Kimball Robeson	Columbus Avenue
27	<u>New Directors:</u>	Michael Hall	Clarendon Street
28		Abby Johnson	Chandler Street
29		Carol Trust	Chandler Street
30			
	<u>Retiring from the Board:</u>	Tom Boyden	Columbus Avenue
		Bill Keravuori	Appleton Street
		Mike Nairne	St. Charles Street
		Tom Rapko	Warren Avenue
		Sandy Slarsky	Tremont Street