



**Board Attendance**

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

**Guests:**

Aaron Michlewitz, Speaker DiMasi's Office, Noreen Manzo, David Manzo, Bob Meenen, Kim Dukis

**Welcome**

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

**General Announcements and Topics of Discussion**

- Executive Committee Update** - Leigh Bivings announced that there will be a meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> between the City and representatives from Atelier regarding the parking issue. The Board would like to see a compromise reached that is satisfactory to all signatories of the original agreement. Leigh will keep the Board informed.

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

Leigh reported, on behalf of Sandra Silver, that our expenses were minimal at this time in the fiscal year.

- PruPac Overview and Update** - Kathy Emrich, our PruPac representative gave a brief history of PruPac (Prudential Project Advisory Committee). Established in 1986, this committee was formed to advise City Hall on development projects at the Prudential Center. Members include legislators, representatives from neighborhood associations and from businesses.

There are two projects that the Committee is currently looking at:

1. Development at 888 Boylston street. This building was originally planned as an 11 storey tower, but the developer is now seeking permission to add an extra 8 stories.
2. Development on Exeter Street. The plan is to build a 30 storey residential high-rise on Exeter Street, opposite the library.

Neighborhood associations such as Back Bay have voiced strong oppositions to the plans. Public comments have been received by the Committee and a recommendation will be formulated. Kathy will keep the Board informed.

Leigh asked the Board to think about what our position should be regarding these two developments and to bring comments to the next meeting. John Herbert noted that there is also a concern that these plans could set a precedent for developing high buildings on small footprints of land in our area.

### 3. 07-08 Planning -

#### Select Committee Plans/Priorities

##### -Membership

Beth Freeland outlined three goals that her committee is working on:

1. To increase membership by 10%
2. To increase the number of memberships held by businesses in our area.
3. To update the welcome brochure.

It is hoped to set up an outreach program that will put members in contact with new neighbors. The members will be the contacts for questions about our neighborhood.

Two parties are planned:

1. Casino Night for all members in March
1. A new member party in June.

##### -Groundwater

Peter Pogorski reported that three important groundwater initiatives are moving forward:

1. The MBTA, the City and the State have reached a consensus on the recharge south of Back Bay Station. This will mean that rainwater falling on the tracks will be recharged into the ground instead of sending it down the sewers. Details including timing and finance are still to be worked out.
1. The new 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the State Building Code has reached the public comment phase. The draft includes language requiring that construction projects cause no reduction in groundwater levels.
1. A proposed (draft) statewide Groundwater Protection Act is currently being reviewed by legislators and other interested parties. This Act, supported by Ellis, is intended to insure a property owner's right to sufficient groundwater to support his building.

Peter also recognized guest Aaron Michelwitz and thanked him for the Speaker's support of the Ellis Association.

##### -Green Committee

Jennifer Girvin reported that a major goal of this new committee is to publicize the many ways that we can make small changes to save our resources.

The committee has three initiatives for the coming year:

1. To purchase multi-use cloth shopping bags with the Ellis logo printed on them. One bag will be donated to members with the opportunity to purchase more. It is hoped that this will help cut down the amount of plastic shopping bags that are being used.
2. To organize small educational forums. Possible topics include:
  1. Saving our trees. Many of our neighborhood trees are dying because water is not penetrating the tree wells. What can we do about it?
  2. Practical ways to conserve energy. We can all use advice on making our homes more energy efficient.
  3. Food Choices. A forum could be held to discuss supporting our local producers, the Slow Food Movement and other aspects that involve our food choices.

Jennifer noted that the City has a pilot program, which includes the Ellis neighborhood, to use recyclable clear plastic bags for recycling. All recyclable material can be put in these bags, with no need to sort the different materials. It is hoped that this will encourage more people to recycle.

##### -Nominating Committee

Gordon Holmes reported that the committee is in the beginning stages of the nominating process. They are committed to ensuring that the new Board should continue to be reflective of our neighborhood's population and interests.

### 4. Committee Updates -

#### -Development

John Herbert reported that work is continuing to gain momentum at the Columbus Center. David Mundel announced that the National Academy of Sciences has prepared a report, at the request of the State, on the BioLab. The report is intended to look into the National Institute of Health's risk assessment of the site. Public comments have been gathered and a report will be published this month. David will keep the Board updated.

-Events

Leigh announced that many celebrations are to be held in the neighborhood this coming month. These include a neighborhood party at Posh on Tremont, a tree-lighting ceremony at the BCA and the Ellis Wine Group's Annual Holiday Wine Tasting Party.

-Neighborhood services

Jay Fogarty thanked all those involved in the Fall Cleanup.

***Conclusion and adjournment***

The next Board meeting will be on December 18th, 2007

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hoffman