



Board Attendance

P = present, A = absent, NA = notified/excused absence					
Leigh Bivings	P	Betsy Hall	P	Susan Passoni	P
Matt Carroll	A	Michael Hall	NA	Peter Pogorski	P
Glenn Copley	A	Kyle Hancock	P	Gary Patronek	P
Paul Duffy	P	John Herbert	P	Sandra Silver	NA
Kathy Emrich	P	Karl Hinsch	NA	Carol Trust	P
Jay Fogarty	P	Barbara Hoffman	NA	Elizabeth Xanthopoulos	NA
Beth Freeland	P	Gordon Holmes	P		
Jennifer Girvin	P	Abby Johnson	P		
Tony Gordon	NA	Maureen Lamb	P		
Bill Gregor	P	David Mundel	P		

Guests: Kevin Parker, City of Boston; Erika Keith, Big Sister Association; Bruce Petri; Peter Shilland; Aaron Michelewitz

Welcome

Abby Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

1. Big Sister Association, Presentation

Erika Keith gave an overall description of the Big Sister Association. It is a mentoring program, matching girls ages 7 to 15 with an adult “big sister”. Matches are based on interests and geographic area. It is a one-year commitment meeting twice a month for 3 to 4 hours. The Association is actively recruiting big sisters and there is a waiting list of little sisters.

2. Executive Committee Update

Susan Passoni, President, announced that the memorial service for Chris Hayes would be Monday, February 2, 2009 at 11 am at the Cathedral on Washington Street.

Peter Shilland of Appleton Street, has been appointed by the Mayor to be the South End representative on the Groundwater Trust Board. Bob Sherwood will work with Peter as an alternate to the Board.

Susan announced that the Ellis needs a representative to attend monthly meetings at the D4 Police Headquarters at 650 Harrison Avenue. The meetings are held at 6 pm on the last Monday of each month and discussions are held regarding community policing, crime rates, etc.

There is a new program sponsored by the City of Boston to help reduce the cost of energy bills. More information can be found at www.bostonbuyingpower.com.

A new Green Alliance has been formed to create community and learn more about gardening and green tips. Meetings are going to be held February 21, March 7, and March 21 at the South End library at 12 pm. More information can be obtained by emailing laura@plantamericagreem.com.

There are Salsa nights, including lessons, taking place every Saturday night at Villa Victoria.

Abby announced that the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology offers South End residents optical services every Monday and car repairs daily with an appointment.

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

Abby, on behalf of Sandra Silver, Treasurer, reported that she had received 11 new or renewed memberships from the Atelier 505 building. It was also reported, that unlike other events organized by the Wine Group, the Holiday Party had a shortfall of \$450. Finally, \$300 was paid to SEBA for the Holiday Tree lighting.

3. Committee Updates

-Neighborhood Services

Jay Fogarty reported that he thinks the City has done an acceptable job with ticketing for snow violations. The City is now using a camera to document sidewalks that aren't shoveled. Leigh Bivings reported on the Streetscapes program. This program uses a survey instrument to help to determine the condition of the streets in each neighborhood. This will allow the city to allocate resources where they are really needed. A group from Ellis has been convened to start scoring our streets. Another initiative is to try to obtain additional Big Belly trash bins for the neighborhood. The Committee will take Tim McCarthy from the City on a walking tour of the neighborhood to determine where new trash bins are needed.

-Development

John Herbert reported that there is not a lot going on in Development right now. The Beal Company is actively trying to do something about Columbus Center.

-Licensing

David Mundel reported that there is a proposal underway for the development of a CVS store at 285 Columbus Avenue. He also reported that he and Beth Freeland met with the operators at Stephi's and while the renovations have progressed rapidly, they are still discussing the roof vent and garbage collection. The restaurant will probably open within 6 to 8 weeks.

-Membership

Beth Freeland reported that information about the Ellis will be distributed to new residents on a quarterly basis. She is going to give lists of new residents to Board members who have volunteered to knock on doors to introduce them to the Ellis.

-Green

Betsy reported that the Committee is continuing to work on the Green Home Improvement Forum scheduled for the fall of this year.

-Events

Bill Gregor reported that there had been an amazing number of people making reservations for the Progressive Dinner – 40 of 48 spaces are already reserved.

-Communications

Maureen Lamb reported that Ben Watkins will be the photographer for Ellis events. Michael McCormick will be working with Maureen on the Communications committee.

-Nominating

Abby, on behalf of Elizabeth Xanthopoulos, reported that she will be holding a meeting during the first week of February to begin outreach. Her committee will start making follow-up calls to current Board members to determine their willingness to serve next year.

-Groundwater

Peter Pogorski reported that a tank is needed for nonpotable water for refill near Chandler Street.

4. Other Business

Aaron Michelewitz, speaking on behalf of Representative DiMasi, thanked the neighborhood for all the past support of the Representative and that DiMasi was honored to serve the neighborhood. Aaron announced that he has declared his candidacy to fill the seat vacated by Rep. DiMasi. Peter Pogorski asked Aaron to thank Rep. DiMasi on behalf of the Board for all of his work.

Conclusion and adjournment

The next meeting will be on February 24, 2009, 6:30 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Abby Johnson, on behalf of Barbara Hoffman