



Board Attendance

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

Guests: Kevin McCrea, candidate for Mayor; Tabitha Bennett, South End Liaison to the Mayor’s Office; Betsy Boveroux; Bruce Petri

Welcome

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

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

1. Kevin McCrea Presentation

Mayoral candidate McCrea outlined to the Board his plans for the city.

2. Executive Committee Update

Abby announced that the NIH Blue Ribbon Panel meeting on the Biolab scheduled for May 5 has been cancelled. Also cancelled is the Hayes Park May Day, which was scheduled for May 3. The first game for the South End Little League Baseball team will be on May 18, 6p.m. at the Jim Rice Field, Roxbury.

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz will hold a Community Budget Forum on May 12. This will be held at the United South End Settlements, Harriet Tubman House, from 7-8p.m.. Ellis is one of the co-sponsors. David Mundel reported that the Executive Committee nominated David Lapin, Executive Director of the Community Music Center as this year’s recipient of the Arthur Howe Award. This choice was approved by the Board.

Elizabeth Xanthopoulos presented the slate of officers for next year that will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting. John Herbert commented that it is essential that new members understand their commitments as Board members. Abby will be meeting with them to discuss this and also to decide with them what committee they should join.

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

Sandra Silver, Treasurer, reported that most of the activity this month was to do with our Big Belly Trash Cans fundraiser.

3. Committee Updates

-Neighborhood Services

Jay Fogarty reported that the Spring Cleanup went well. 38 people signed in and the Animal Rescue League sent 10 volunteers to help. Jay asked that we let him know if we see graffiti in our neighborhood and he will remove it.

Leigh Bivings reported our Big Belly Trash Can fundraiser was a great success, with many local businesses contributing to this effort. Our goal was \$12,800 and we have raised \$12,700 as of today. This will buy 4 Big Bellies. The City will match the funds raised so we will have 8 new Big Bellies in our neighborhood. The committee will work with the City on the placement of these new cans. Now that we have a partnership with Union Park Neighborhood Association for an individual to clean a section of Tremont Street, Paul Duffy is working encourage local businesses, condo associations and individual residents to create a fund to help pay for this.

There are several other "trash hot spots" in our neighborhood and the committee is working to encourage neighbors to set up similar plans.

John Herbert commented that we should be using some of our funds for this and other projects. Abby mentioned that we also need new ideas for projects to fund.

-Development

John Herbert reported that bids on the Union building on Berkeley Street, plus the adjacent vacant lot, is scheduled to close in 2 weeks.

There are 2 rear deck building issues to be addressed.

-Licensing

David Mundel reported that we have an agreement with Stephi's Restaurant to close at 11p.m. Tuesday through Saturdays and 10 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.

The windows will be closed at 9:30 p.m. on all days to cut down on the noise.

Kathy Emrich recalls that we have the same type of agreement about closing windows for Cleary's, and this needs to be monitored.

-Membership

Beth Freeland reported that we have 282 memberships (432 members), which is roughly the same as last year. Letters were sent out to people who have recently moved into the neighborhood. The condo association of the new building at 285 Columbus Avenue would like to arrange for a meeting with our membership committee to learn about our organization.

-Events

Bill Gregor announced that the 2nd Jazzy Wine Tasting at the Berklee College of Music on April 23 was a great success.

June 13 is the Pride Parade, and we will be giving out the Ellis green bags.

July 31 is the Tito Puente Jazz Festival. The Wine Group may have a Caribbean Cocktail event as part of the celebration.

-Groundwater

Peter Pogorski reported the following:

1. The city has begun its sewer relining project in our neighborhood. Sewers are scheduled to be repaired by the end of the summer.
2. Mass Turnpike Authority is looking into a leak on Clarendon and Columbus.
3. The groundwater wells at the Columbus Center site are to be reinstated and monitored by the Groundwater Trust.
3. A Bill involving groundwater was filed in January and will now make its way through the legislative process.

Abby reminded the Board that the Ellis does not endorse political candidates. The bylaws state the following:

Article 1. The Corporation shall not affiliate with or endorse candidates for public office.

Article V-10. Any officer or director shall be prohibited from identifying him/herself in any way as affiliated with the Corporation in supporting any candidate for public office.

Conclusion and adjournment

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting. It will be held on May 26, 2009, 6:30 P.M. at Mills Gallery, BCA, 539 Tremont St.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Barbara Hoffman