



Board Attendance

P = present, A = absent, NA = notified/excused absence					
Nan Coellner	P	Michael Hall	P	Will Murphy	A
Paul Duffy	P	Dave Hauck	P	Susan Passoni	P
Kathy Emrich	P	John Herbert	P	Gary Patronek	P
Hugh Fitzgerald	P	Barbara Hoffman	NA	Elizabeth Peck	P
Beth Freeland	P	Gordon Holmes	P	Peter Pogorski	P
Jennifer Girvin	P	Abby Johnson	P	Sandra Silver	P
Tony Gordon	P	Maureen Lamb	A	Gretchen Speck	P
Bill Gregor	P	David Mundel	P	Carol Trust	NA
Betsy Hall	P	Doug Murphy	A	Stephen Vowles	P

Guests: Peter Shilland, Bruce Petri, Elizabeth Beutel (The Palm Restaurant)

Welcome

Abby Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

1. Announcements

On Saturday, September 26, there will be a Southwest Corridor Park clean-up from 9am to 12 noon. All should meet at West Newton Street on the Corridor.

The Palm Restaurant is hosting a Happy Hour on Wednesday, September 23 open to all Ellis members. Meeting visitor Elizabeth Beutel is a manager there.

Susan Passoni reported that the Executive Committee had decided not to re-institute the Philanthropic Committee. If there is a cause that a member would like to see the Ellis support, that member should come before the Executive Committee to present his or her case and plan. The Executive Committee will then bring the proposal before the full Board for a vote. Hugh Fitzgerald expressed an interest in working to help the McKinley School on Warren Avenue. Susan spoke with the Principal of the school and while mentoring will not work for the Ellis, we can work on some beautification efforts and improvement in relations with the neighborhood. A sign-up sheet was sent around to members.

2. Executive Committee Update

The minutes from the prior Board meeting were discussed and accepted with a change from Wine Group Chair, Bill Gregor, to note that there were more than fifty people who enthusiastically attended the Tito Fuente concert event over the summer.

Sandra Silver, Treasurer, reported that the budget will be set by the October meeting. The Ellis will have a new post office box, and therefore a new address, when the Post Office moves back to the Stuart Street/Clarendon Street location in October.

3. Committee Updates

-Wine Group

Chair Bill Gregor announced that October 7 event "Back to Reality" tasting already has 33 people signed up to attend. He also provided the following dates for future wine events:

December 12	Holiday Tasting
January 30	Salsa Outing with Villa Victoria
March 17	Whiskey Tasting (possibly with Old Dover Neighborhood)
April ?	Berkeley Third Annual Jazz Concert
May 26	Garden Party
June 12	Pride Parade
July 22 or 29	Tito Fuentes Concert and Tasting

-Green

Co-chair Jennifer Girvin announced the October 3 Tree Walk. This will be a walk with Arnold Arboretum's curator around the South End to discuss the history and care of our trees and the contributions we and the City of Boston can make to help the trees.

The Green Committee Forum will be held on Wednesday, November 14 from 7 to 8:30pm at the Y on Berkeley Street. Paul Markey of the Green Roundtable will talk about greening your home.

-Events - Halloween Party

David Hauck announced that the Appleton Street Halloween party hosted by Tadpole, Appleton Bakery and the Ellis will be held on Thursday, October 29 from 4:30pm until dark at the Dartmouth Street end of Appleton Street.

-Licensing

Chair David Mundel announced that he appeared at a Licensing Board meeting on behalf of the Ellis and the 3 Appleton and 5 Appleton condominium boards regarding the transfer of a liquor license from Icarus to Noche. A cooperation agreement has been signed between the condominium boards and Noche. Noche has asked for a 2am closing and they will have that four nights a week with a check on noise, behavior and compliance after the initial four months of business. No outdoor seating will ever be allowed. The Licensing Board will likely make their decision in about six weeks.

Georgiana's on Tremont Street wants a limited sale of alcohol, in addition to the wine and beer they already sell. The Eight Streets Neighborhood Association is working with them on issues such as staffing, no drinking on premises, and no "nip" bottles sold at the store.

Finally, David made a request of the Board. Due to the growing number of agreements the Ellis has with stores and restaurants in the neighborhood, when someone hears of a problem at an establishment, please let David or Kathy Emrich know so the problem can be addressed before it gets out of hand.

4. By-Law Discussion

Susan Passoni spoke first about two items that would not change the current By-Laws. One, the Ellis needs to file with the Secretary of State as we will have a new address when the Post Office moves back to the Stuart Street location in mid-October. Two, Susan asked if the Executive Committee should act, just for this year, as an interim Nominating Committee. A vote was taken, passed, and then amended to state that individual names of the Executive Committee members as well as Elizabeth Peck and Michael Hall will be listed as members of the Nominating Committee. The Amendment was accepted.

Susan asked the Board to think about an alternative the Executive Committee had discussed about term limits for the Executive Committee and Board members. Limits for Executive Committee members would be four years, staggered, with a two-year hiatus between terms. Limits for Board members would be ten years, staggered, with a two-year hiatus between terms. This plan would allow for rotation in the Board and allow for more Ellis neighborhood residents to become involved as Board members.

After discussion there was no formal vote taken and Board members were asked to think about the plan and offer suggestions at the next meeting.

Conclusion and adjournment

The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2009

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Abby Johnson (for Barbara Hoffman)