



Board Attendance

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

Guests: David Lapin (Community Music Center of Boston), Tabitha Bennett, Aaron Michlewitz, Betsy Beveroux

Welcome

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

1. Presentation by David Lapin - Community Music Center of Boston

David Lapin is the executive director of the Community Music Center of Boston and the recipient of the Ellis' Arthur Howe Award in 2009.

In his brief report to the Ellis Board, David noted that the Community Music Center is now celebrating its centennial year (2009/2010) having been formed in 1910. The Center has been resident in the Ellis for many years, being a tenant of the Boston Center for the Arts for the last 40 years. In honor of its centennial, the Center is now hosting a weekly concert series on Thursday evenings. To insure its future success, the Center is also in the midst of a \$2 million capital campaign

David reported that although many Ellis residents think of the Center as its neighbor occupying a small space in the basement of the BCA, the Center is actually a major institution within Boston's arts community. It has over 70 employees who teach in and manage many school and community-based programs throughout the City. The Center is the oldest and largest operator of arts programs in Boston's schools. Its school-based and other programs operate in almost three dozen sites. These programs serve over 5400 individuals each week, roughly 700 at its facilities in the BCA and the remaining 4700 elsewhere in the City. In addition, the Center is the largest provider of music therapy in Boston.

David asked the Board for its and its members support in the coming year.

2. Presentation by Aaron Michlewitz

Representative Michlewitz reported that he will begin hosting weekly office/coffee hours on Saturday November 7th. The first office/coffee hours will be held at the Buttery from 9am to 12 noon and future hours will be held at other neighborhood restaurants.

In addition, Aaron reported that he would soon be meeting with the Undersecretary of the new State Transportation Department to discuss further cleanup of the Columbus Center air rights parcels.

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

3. General Updates

Susan Passoni, President, reported the following:

- a. Susan briefed the Board on the film shoot planned for the first weekend of November.
- b. Susan urged the Board and the membership to write to their State legislators, requesting their support for House Bill 3588, which would strengthen the City's ticketing program aimed at improper and/or illegal trash disposal.
- c. Susan reported that there is has been an increase in crime in the neighborhood, including house and car break-ins and trash stealing apparently aimed at identity theft.
- d. Susan also reported that she had been informed that the funds needed for the installation of a stoplight at the corner of Appleton and Berkeley Streets had been placed in the budget proposal for the coming year. The current plan is to install this light during the summer or fall of next year.

The minutes from the previous board meeting were approved as drafted

The budget plan for the 2009-2010 was reviewed by Sandra Silver and adopted by the Board.

4. Committee Updates

-Communications

Maureen Lamb reported that the website was averaging roughly 130 visits per day and that an upgrade of the website software was now underway.

-Neighborhood Services

Carol Trust reviewed the plans for the fall neighborhood clinic scheduled for November 14th (9 am through 12 noon). As part of this fall's cleanup, Hugh Fitzgerald will be organizing an Ellis team focused on cleaning the McKinley school site.

-Green

Jennifer Girvin reported that the neighborhood tree walk and the "greening your home" forum were now planned for the Spring of 2010.

-Development

John Herbert reported that the committee had been meeting with the developers of the 'union headquarters' site on Berkeley Street between Lawrence and Appleton Streets. John reported that the two developers - Ellis Memorial and the Chandler Inn - are making progress in their planning efforts. John described the Chandler Inn's proposal for an extended-stay (12 studio units with small cooking facilities) component of the current hotel. This plan will be discussed with Landmarks in the coming weeks and following John's presentation, the Board voted to support, in a preliminary fashion, the Chandler Inn's current plans

-Licensing

David Mundel reported that the committee would be meeting with Tent City board representatives to discuss the growing problems that Ellis and Tent City residents were experiencing with Clery's restaurant/bar and its patrons.

-Stuart Street Rezoning Advisory Group

Sandra Silver briefly reviewed the status of this BRA-initiated project and the changes currently being developed by the BRA and reviewed by the Advisory Group. Sandra reported that these proposed zoning changes would be reviewed by the Development Committee and the Executive Committee and the presented to and reviewed by the Board. Sandra reported that the BRA will ask the Ellis for its opinion later this fall prior to presenting recommendations to the BRA Board for its consideration and potential adoption.

5. Other Business

Given the limited time remaining for further discussion, the planned discussion of possible by-law changes was deferred until a future Board meeting.

Conclusion and adjournment

The next meeting will be on November 24, 2009.

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

Respectively submitted,

David Mundell (for Barbara Hoffman)