



Board Attendance

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

Guests: Marleen Nienhuis,, President of the Friends of the South End Library, new Board members, Carl Hensch, Elsa Hill, Maureen Lamb and Christopher Smalley

Welcome

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

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

1. South End Library Update-

Marleen Nienhuis gave an overview of developments at the South End Library. The Friends of the South End Library was created in 2007 to improve the current physical condition of the library and the park. The Friends were successful in lobbying for funds from the Parks Department to overhaul the park. As a result, the area is much more attractive. New benches have been installed, and the area has been cleaned up. Boston Public Library is considering a proposal to hire a consultant to survey library needs in the South End, assess the library's facilities, make recommendations for improvements, and document this process as a blueprint for action replicable by other Boston branch libraries. Funding for the rehabilitation of these libraries has to be raised privately by the Trustees of Boston Public Library. Marleen commented that the South End Library not only needs a complete physical renovation, but also a complete technology update. She also noted that services for teenagers that are being implemented in such libraries as Salt Lake City and Seattle could be implemented in our area if funding was provided.

2. Executive Committee Update -

Kyle Hancock, President, announced that the Union Park Block Party is to be held on June 28th and reminded the Board to check our website for local events.

The minutes from the April Board meeting and the May General Meeting were discussed and accepted .

Sandra Silver, Treasurer, reported that membership dues are coming in. With the exception of the Membership Committee, most committees have not spent their budgets for this fiscal year.

Leigh Bivings reviewed the goals that had been set for 2007-2008. A good start has been made by the Green Committee, established this year. Some progress has been made to minimize the amount of trash and graffiti in our neighborhood. More work is needed to encourage Ellis members to get

involved in our activities and committees. Leigh noted that the Green Committee has been successful in attracting members who are not on the Board to their meetings.

3. Committee Updates and Year in Review-

- Development

John Herbert reported that most projects this year were well handled. We need make more use of our website to communicate the ongoing status of building projects. The pace of development has slowed because of the economy. One new effort was the creation by the City of a Citizen Advisory Board (CAC) for the proposed 45 story building to be located in the open space in front of Neiman Marcus. It is uncertain what will happen to the Columbus Center.

-Neighborhood Services

Jay Fogarty reported that the Spring and Fall Clean Up Days were successful. Graffiti is an ongoing problem that can be kept under control if more people are willing to spend time removing it. The committee will work on finding more volunteers to work on this in the next year. The experiment of hiring Charlie to clean up parts of Tremont Street has worked well. There has been some ad hoc communication with the City this year on problems that affect all neighborhoods, and it is hoped to continue this communication in the coming year. Next year there will be 3 co-chairs in order to spread the heavy workload around.

-Green

Jennifer Girvin reported that this committee has been very successful in attracting new members. There are 16 members, 10 of which are not on the Board.

Three projects were decided on at the beginning of the year:

1. To encourage the use of recyclable shopping bags.

Action - Bags were purchased with the Ellis logo and are being distributed to new members and sold on our website.

2. To inform Ellis members about practical ways to conserve energy with the goal of inspiring people to make small changes in their everyday habits that will help preserve the natural resources in our neighborhood.

Action - A resource guide is being worked on and will be available in the Fall

3. To help preserve the trees in our neighborhood.

Action - A forum on trees is being organized for the Fall. It will be open to all neighborhood associations and will cover such topics as practical ways to take care of trees and how to protect them.

A possible project for the following year may be an "Adopt a Tree" project.

-Events

The Events Committee did not have a Chair this year. Leigh reported that our involvement in the Gay Pride Parade held on Saturday, June 14th was bigger than ever. Bill Gregor and Susan Passoni coordinated the Ellis contingent of about 25 members. We are the only neighborhood association that participates in the parade .

-Marketing and Communications

Susan Passoni reported that the goal this year was to improve community outreach. A photo contest was held and the results posted on our website. We now have a volunteer photographer who will document neighborhood events, which will also be posted on our website. Voter Registration was a very successful outreach project, resulting in over 100 new registered voters. The committee coordinated publicity for the Casino Night, such as advertisements in local newspapers, leaflets posted in local stores and information on the website.

Efforts are being made to get more publicity for Ellis from the media. Our part in the Gay Pride Parade was an example of good press coverage. More members are needed for this committee.

-Licensing

Betsy Boveroux reported that it was a relatively quiet year for this committee. The proposal for a new Upper Crust Pizza on Tremont Street was denied. There are no details yet of what restaurant will be occupying the former Garden of Eden site, but it is assumed that they will be applying for a license.

Betsy also reported that the Book Group is beginning its selection for the year, and the list will be posted on the website. She mentioned that the South End Seniors had a very successful meeting in May on the subject of how to stay in your own home rather than move to assisted living . Three pages of resources on this subject were distributed to everyone at the meeting.

-Groundwater

Peter Pogorski reported that this year was a good one for groundwater developments. The 7th Edition of the State Building Code should be available soon and contains language requiring that all new construction projects cause no reduction in groundwater levels. Two new recharge wells were added on Cazenove Street and two on Berkeley. Between 5 and 7 million dollars is to be spent to change the recharge water from domestic to non-potable water. A proposed (draft) statewide Groundwater Protection Act is currently being reviewed by legislators including Marty Walsh and Byron Rushing . This Act is intended to insure a property owner's right to sufficient groundwater to support his building.

4. Other Business-

It was suggested that the agenda for the board meetings be posted on our website.

Conclusion and Adjournment

There will be no Board meeting in July. The next meeting will be on August 26, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hoffman