



Board Attendance

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

Guests: Javier Torres, IBA; Carmen Chan, BCNC; Meghan Haggerty, South End Liaison to the Mayor’s Office; Marissa Gray; Peter Hill.

Welcome

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

General Announcements and Topics of Discussion

1. Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center

Carman Chan gave an overview of the organization. Founded in 1969 BCNC assists over 4000 people each year by providing the resources they need to secure a footing in their community and improve their lives. They have two sites, one at 885 Washington Street and two years ago they added another site at 38 Ash Street. They provide such services as child care, adult education and a fitness program. Their most recent program, called Red Oak, provides after school education to over 140 children during the school year and during the summer. More details can be found on their website www.bcnc.net.

2. Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion

Javier Torres, gave an overview of the organization. In 1968 a group of predominately Puerto Rican community activists gained control of the development of their neighborhood. This resulted in the building of Villa Victoria, the 435 unit development that provides affordable housing in the South End to 3,000 multicultural residents. IBA has continued to work in the community providing such programs as a bilingual pre-kindergarten, after school programs for students of all ages, and adult education programs. More details can be found at www.iba-etc.org. Part of IBA is the Center for Latino Arts. The Center was founded in 1968. Located on West Newton Street, it is a multi-function community arts center whose mission is to promote Latino art. More details can be found at www.claboston.org.

3. Executive Committee Update -

Kyle Hancock, President, announced that the Annual Meeting of the Ellis will be at 6:30 on May 27th at the Franklin Institute, 41 Berkeley Street.

Leigh reported that the City met with representatives of Atelier 505 on March 25th. The Atelier residents were informed that the original agreement is to be upheld. This means that Atelier residents

will not be eligible for South End parking stickers. Part of the original agreement was that 10 stickers would be issued to Atelier and that their Board of Trustees would decide how to distribute them. This agreement still stands.

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

Sandra Silver, Treasurer, reported that the Progressive Dinner made a profit of \$360 and that the cost of the Ellis shopping bags ordered by the Green Committee came in under budget. Most of the Operating Expenses budget has been spent. A large proportion of this was on a year's rent for the Ellis storage space.

Leigh gave an inter-association update. She and Jay met with representatives from Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) and the South End Business Alliance (SEBA) to look at common issues. The Eight Streets Association are also planning to be part of this group and will send a representative to the next meeting.

Some of the issues discussed were:

A. Street Cleaning –

Ellis and UPNA, working together, are hiring Charlie to clean up Tremont Street between Clarendon and Dartmouth. Charlie already works for residents in our neighborhood to keep their blocks clean.

B. Trash –

The associations are working with the City on an effort to get Big Belly trash compactors in many of our neighborhoods. The City has experimented with them and has found them very successful. They compact using solar power and have many times the capacity of the normal trash bins. Trash does not get scattered on the ground, and the design is such that it is difficult to put household trash in them..

C. Abandoned Buildings –

The associations will work together to identify abandoned buildings in their neighborhoods. It is hoped that press coverage will help highlight the problems that arise when a building is abandoned.

D. Social Events –

Ellis is co-sponsoring the Casino Night with UPNA. UPNA is also forming a Young Southenders Group, which will be open to members of other associations. It is hoped that more events involving neighbor associations will be planned.

4. Committee Updates-

-Neighborhood Services

Jay announced that Spring Cleanup Day will be April 26th and will be organized by Matt Carroll. Jay mentioned that the businesses on Tremont Street are to be asked to voluntarily contribute towards paying Charlie to keep Tremont Street free from trash.

-Development

John Herbert reported that the future of the Columbus Center is unclear. Work has stopped on the construction of the deck.

-Membership

Beth Freeland announced that work on the Casino Night is progressing. It is to be held on May 3rd at the Franklin Institute and is a joint event with UPNA. Invitations are being printed and will be sent to all Ellis and UPNA members. New members will be encouraged to come for a fun evening and to meet their neighbors. Beth reported that a batch of new resident welcome letters will be sent out soon. New members will also be encouraged to come to the Jazz Wine Tasting Event to be held on April 29th at the Berklee School of Music, 142 Massachusetts Avenue. Details are posted on our website.

-Events

Leigh announced that the South End Historical Society will be holding their 42nd Annual South End Ball on May 10th at the Boston Ballet, 19 Clarendon Street.

-Nominating Committee

Gordon Holmes reported that a slate of nominees will be presented to the Executive Committee on April 8th and to the full Board at the next meeting on April 22nd.

-Green Committee

Jennifer Girvin reported that the Ellis shopping bags have arrived .The Committee will decide on a reasonable price and on how to publicize the bags. She announced that early in the Fall there will be a forum on trees. A panel of experts will be invited who can help us take care of the trees in our streets and in our backyards. The Committee is also working on a resource guide that will include practical tips on such subjects as recycling and energy saving.

-Marketing and Communication

Susan Passoni asked the Board to vote on a winner for the photography competition. A winner was chosen and the photograph will be use as the banner on the home page of our website.. She asked that members let her know of events to put on the website calendar.

-Licensing

Betsy Boveroux reported that the Beehive is asking the Licensing Board to coordinate their permits. At the moment they are permitted 360 people under their occupancy permit and 300 under their assembly point permit. They are asking to have both numbers the same, i.e. 360 people. They are also requesting that their current DJ's permit be changed so that the DJ can be on the stage and not at the back of the room. This would not impact the Beehive's providing live music whenever possible. Their permit requires 12 hours of live music per week and on average they offer 16 hours per week.

5. Other Business

Betsy Hall reported that there will be a meeting on May 19th at the Berkeley Street YWCA to discuss resources in Boston for seniors. A panel is planned with representatives from such organizations as Beacon Hill Village and Creative Alliances. Issues to be addressed include care for the elderly and financial planning

Peter Hill asked that the Board support his request for parking meters on Columbus Avenue between the Red Cross building and the Bryant building. This will help with traffic and safety issues. The Board agreed and Peter will draft a letter to be sent to the City. Meghan Haggerty offered to help with this issue.

Conclusion and adjournment

The next Board meeting will be on April 22, 2008 .

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hoffman