



**MINUTES OF ELLIS BOARD MEETING February 28, 2017
1 Chandler Street**

Directors present: Emily Aaronson, Robert Berstein, Chris Block, Patty Brennan, Gretchen Chauncey, Jack Fitzgerald, Bill Gregor, Betsy Hall, Michael Hall, Gordon Holmes, Yvonne Lee, Regina Pyle, Marie Schappert, Jane Siegel, Roberta Sydney, Carol Trust

Also Present: Matt Rhoades, Ellis Member and Member of the DLZ Committee; Aaron Michlewitz, State Representative; Patrick Lyons, Aaron's assistant; Sam Chambers, Mayor's Office; Greg Ruffer, President of the BCA; Drayton Mayers, journalism student from Emerson College

Directors excused: John Alekna, Dave Crowley, Anthony Gordon, Jason Nardella, Toby Rodman, Ellen Sheets, Mike Worhach

Directors absent: Ross Bundy, Paul Duffy, Ed MacLean, Ken Tutunjian

Betsy Hall called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. January minutes were unanimously approved with an amendment changing the wine tasting date to March 22.

Guest Speaker: Aaron M. Michlewitz

- Representative Michlewitz discussed the legislative proposals for the 2017-2018 Session, which included:
 - Short term residential rentals (as applied towards rentals advertised by, for example, Airbnb)
 - Type of short term rentals
 - Residential Host – Rental under 60 days a year
 - Commercial Host – More than 60 days a year
 - Business Rentals/Corporate Housing – Continuous short term rentals
 - Creation of a registration system so that different types of rentals are transparent to their neighbors
 - Rentals must be up to code (electrical, fire, safety matters)
 - Rentals will have to pay state and local taxes based on a type of host
 - Rentals also need minimum liability of \$1,000,000
 - If a municipality wants the tax revenue for short term rentals, at least 50% needs to be spent on low income housing and regulations have to be set

- Sound End Representative to the Massport Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Representatives from South and East Boston and 5 others “at large.” This bill would allow for a specific South End representative
 - Addition comes about mostly because of increased airport noise
- Gun Control Measures
 - Jane asked a question about a national reciprocity measure for carrying a gun. Representative Michlewitz commented that the legislature would most likely push back on any such measure.
- Better regulations concerning Sex Offenders
 - First bill would instruct Department of Public Safety to formulate a plan prohibiting inappropriate discharges of level 3 sex offenders to homeless shelters.
 - Second bill would clarify how sex offenders register with local police, mandating that they check in within 30 days of being released from custody.

Roberta asked about the interplay between small businesses and large businesses, and who to contact regarding large chains from overtaking small businesses.

Treasurer’s report: Gretchen Chauncey presented the budget for this month. Ellis currently has \$51,000 in the bank account.

Executive Director’s report:

- In Stacy’s absence, Michael Hall gave a report on the fundraiser. The fundraiser will be Sunday, June 11 at Mistral at 5:30pm. Sponsor levels will be distributed shortly. Michael asked for suggestions for a silent auction.

Committee Reports

Committee Reports are now being submitted in writing prior to the meeting and committee reports at meetings will be limited to question/answer and updates.

DLZ: Matt discussed the slow street initiative. The purpose is to promote safety in the neighborhood by creating zones to reduce speed to 20mph. Applications can come from community groups or associations. The city will pick 2-3 participants city-wide to participate.

Community Outreach: No questions or updates.

Scholarship Committee: Marie announced that the scholarship application has launched on the Web.

Membership: No questions or updates.

Neighborhood Services: Dave was not present, and Betsy provided an update on the tree fences project which is nearing completion and on the Ellis Welcome signage which is still stalled. Emily mentioned that the committee discussed tree replacement with the city arborist, and the arborist said that they will not replace the trees on any street that is not ADA compliant.

Marie discussed the grant application to beautify the Allan Crite park by West Canton; there was an issue regarding park ownership and now the application deadline has passed.

Carol gave an update on Ballet parking. She and Stacy had a meeting with the ballet administrators and they have an agreement with the Boston Ballet to come up with a solution. Carol and Stacy will have a future meeting with the Transportation Department and the Boston Ballet. The director of the BCA asked that they also be represented at the meeting.

Other issues

- Betsy noted the new room setup format which was appreciated. The membership also discussed whether or not to have guests at the Board meetings. It was agreed that guests were largely a value added.
- Bill Gregor announced that the next Progressive Dinner will be on February 5, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Lee
Clerk