



**Minutes of Open Board Meeting, October 28, 2014
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, Room U202A**

Board Members Present: John Alekna, Patty Brennan, Dave Crowley, Paul Duffy, Tony Gordon, Bill Gregor, Betsy Hall, Michael Hall, John Herbert, Elsa Hill, Barbara Hoffman, Gordon Holmes, Ed MacLean, Ha Orbon, Regina Pyle, Toby Rodman, Marie Schappert, Ellen Sheets, Jane Siegel, Jane Watt, Mike Worhach.

Board Members Notified Absent: Ken Tutunjian

Board Members Absent: Carol Trust.

Guests and Members: Lesley Fenton and Sylvia Mikaylova, Personal Best Fitness, Peter Shilland of Groundwater Trust, Aimee Murray, and Evan Kuras.

Unscheduled Guest: Ron Medina, President Childe Hassam Park

Guest Speakers

Lesley Fenton and Sylvia Mikaylova described their fitness center to be opened at 480 Tremont Street in Castle Square. The center will be membership only and will offer classes only, such as functional training, social ballroom dancing, and Mommy or Daddy and Me classes. They have a hearing date of 11/18/14 and hope to open the first week of January 2015. Ellis agreed to provide a letter of non-opposition.

Evan Kuras, a BU 2014 ecology graduate, presented his research on differential temperatures in the summer of 2013 in the South End. He described environmental hazards of heat and humidity and diverse distribution and use of resources, such as trees and cooling centers. He recommended sharing information about resources and making them more welcoming. He will share a two-page research memo. Evan will lead walking tours supported by the SE Historical Society on 11/1 and 11/2.

Ron Medina, President of Childe Hassam Park noted that the park was the only one in Boston dedicated to an artist. The Park is planning a schedule of art, music, and dance, and will share information and future events with the Ellis.

September Minutes

The September minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Assistant Report

Stacy Koeppel reported that the BPS Principal event would be held at BFIT on December 3, 2014 from 5:30-7:00. Principals from the Hurley, Prescott, Quincy, and Elliott Schools have responded. Counselor Tito Jackson has been invited. Stacy is looking for a facilitator and is considering Suzanne Lee. She will ask the Courant to be the media sponsor and is looking for local sponsors.

The Holiday Party will be Sunday December 7th. Ha, Betsy, and Stacy will be the planning committee.

Stacy is researching wreath hanging and is in the process of forming a budget, and is thinking of 120 wreaths at \$9 each. Bay Village and Washington Gateway recommended hanging wreaths as high as possible to deter theft. Tony and Toby questioned whether wreaths were the best use of Ellis funds. John Herbert and Dave Crowley felt the visibility and public relations were an asset. We might get assistance

in hanging wreaths from Cathedral students. The board voted 18 to 2 to approve a budget for the wreaths not to exceed \$2000.

Committee Updates

Licensing: Tony Gordon reported he hoped the Mayor's representative would be at the meeting to answer questions about the newly announced residential policy. He reported the Ellis was not interested in high rises in our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Services: Ellen Sheets reported the neighborhood clean up would be November 27 from 9-12. There will be a sign-up table and pick up at the BCA.

Web site: Betsy reported we are in negotiation with two web facilitators and will provide a report at the next meeting.

Wine Committee: Bill Gregor reported a successful kickoff at the Hoffmans. There will be a whisky tasting in the Atelier library on 11/6 from 6:30-8:30 with a whisky ambassador to explain Scotch single malts.

Membership: Stacy reported the first meeting of the committee was scheduled for 10/30. There has been a significant reduction in the number of people who needed to renew. Some ideas were possible recognition for number of years as members, having local businesses host behind the scenes, a member party, and a new member party. We need to rethink younger family events. Stacy thanked the board members for their work and reminded the board that each member gets one complimentary membership. Regina thanked Stacy for all her work.

New Business

Betsy welcomed the newest and youngest member of the Ellis community and presented Ha with gifts for her baby.

Daffodils will be planted in Frieda Garcia Park 11/1 from 10-12.

Board meetings in November and December will be on the third Tuesday due to the holidays.

The issue was raised of safety issues from double-parked cars picking up children from the Boston Ballet. It was suggested that someone from the Ballet could speak to the Board and we could raise the issue with Officer Thaxter. Tony suggested that the Ballet could pay for a police detail.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 and was followed by a social period.