



**MINUTES OF OPEN BOARD MEETING, November 18, 2014
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ROOM U 202A**

Board Members Present: John Chambers, Dave Crowley, Tony Gordon, Bill Gregor, Betsy Hall, Michael Hall, John Herbert, Elsa Hill, Gordon Holmes, Ed McLean, Ha Orbon, Regina Pyle, Toby Rodman, Marie Schappert, Ellen Sheets, Jane Siegel, Mike Worhach.

Board Members Notified Absent: John Alekna, Patty Brennan, Paul Duffy, Barbara Hoffman, and Carol Trust.

Board Member Absent: Ken Tutunjian

Guests and Members: Stacy Koeppel, Executive Assistant, Oscar Santos, principal Cathedral High School, Cheryl Madruga, associate director of advancement, Cathedral High School, and Grace Gregor.

Regina Pyle, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Guest Speakers

Oscar Santos has been principal of Cathedral High School for two years. He has an extensive resume, including Boston Teacher of the Year, principal of Boston International High School for seven years, and superintendent of the Randolph Public Schools. Mr. Santos showed a short video about the school. Cathedral High School is an independent urban school which is not associated with the archdiocese and prepares an underserve population to be leaders. It serves 285 students from grades 7-12. 95% of the students receive reduced lunch, 86% are from distressed areas, 60% are from single parent families, and 40% have a language other than English as their primary language. For eleven years the school has graduated 100% of their students and 100% are accepted to college. The school has begun a summer program, a longer day, and internships. The school has hired a college transition director to stay in touch with graduates. They are exploring expanding to grade 6 and exploring using the convent next door and expanding to 350 students. Elsa Hill reported she visited the school and was impressed with the positive tone of the school. John Chambers reported he was “blown away” by the students. At his suggestion, the Executive Committee authorized the purchase of a digital camera for the students. John Herbert said it was “a special place” and an “eye-opening experience” and invited Board members to visit.

John Chambers reported that the students had created a social media club. Ellis donated a digital camera to the club, which was presented at an assembly. The club was assigned to take photographs at Homecoming. It's all about partnership.

Minutes

The October minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Michael Hall reported we are in solid financial shape. We have \$56,467 in the bank and had \$9971 in receipts.

President's Report

Betsy Hall reported she is working on the Board development project for January and will send an email to the Board. Betsy and Stacy chose a website provider who was recommended by Mike Worhach. Omar will get the site up and running and do functionality.

Executive Assistant's Report

Stacy Koepfel reported that five principals had confirmed for the BPS forum: the Hurley, the Quincy, the Elliott, the Warren Prescott, and the Blackstone. Suzanne Lee will moderate and the Courant will be the media sponsor. There have been 42 RSVPs and BFIT has space for 300 chairs. Publicity is planned through Twitter, other neighborhood associations, Garden Moms, Villa Victoria, IBA, and Castle Square. Parents can pick schools within a mile from their home, with exceptions for bilingual and other special programs.

120 wreaths have been ordered to be hung on Berkeley, Clarendon, and Dartmouth Street. Stacy thanked Ed MacLean for getting us a good price below our budget. Cathedral High School students will attach bows and they will be delivered to Project Place for hanging. There will be various ways of publicizing the event

Tree lighting will be Sunday December 6th at 4:15. Dunkin Donuts will provide donuts, munchkins, coffee, and hot chocolate. Ellis members are needed to staff the table at 3:00.

Committee Updates

John Herbert thanked the Membership Committee and reported they are looking to significantly expand outreach, create a database for outreach and condense their message. They will meet again on 11/20 in the morning.

John Chambers reported the nominating committee consisting of John, Tony Gordon, Bill Gregor, Barbara Hoffman, and Elsa Hill met the night before.

Ellen Sheets reported on neighborhood services. The cleanup will be November 22nd from 9-12. The committee is focusing on a Better Berkeley street from Tremont to Columbus, focusing on safety, beauty, lighting, access, cleanliness, pavement. They will reach out to stakeholders about the wreaths.

New Business

Grace Gregor, dressed for the part, with Kathy Emrich, Susan Mann, and Jane Watt, as the Ellis Elves buy 26-28 gifts for semi-permanent residents of Pine Street. She requested that Ellis send out a request for monetary donations, which can be mailed or dropped off at 92 Appleton Street (checks made out to Ellis Neighborhood Association), or donated through the website.

Stacy reported someone called concerning 7-11 late night deliveries. Tony suggested having trees trimmed to make storefronts and streetlights visible.

Regina reported that the homeless people displaced by the closing of the Long Island Bridge will most likely be housed in modular housing on Frontage Road. The South End has the most shelters and the most services for the homeless in the city. A meeting has been set up by the South End Forum to meet with the Mayor next week to discuss locations other than the South End.

The Holiday Party will be held December 7 from 6-8:00 at Zocolo. Guests are invited. The venue at Precinct was out of our budget, but within the past 24 hours they came back with a better budget and will do a future event.

47 people attended the Whisky Tasting at Atelier on 11/6 and all had a very good time.

2/9 is the 10th anniversary of the Progressive Dinner. The committee will start planning.

Marie suggested that the Events Committee explore an Ellis-sponsored cooking class. Stir was very expensive, but Sur La Table could host up to 20 people and we could bring our own wine and beer for \$85-95. Dave suggested exploring the BCAE.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 for wine and nibbles.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Siegel, Clerk