



**MINUTES OF ELLIS BOARD MEETING APRIL 19, 2016
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROOM 202A**

Members Present: Betsy Hall, Regina Pyle, John Alekna, John Chambers, Jane Siegel, Patty Brennan, Gretchen Chauncey, Leo Delaney, Tony Gordon, Bill Gregor, Barbara Hoffman, Gordon Holmes, Ed MacLean, Toby Rodman, Marie Schappert, Carol Trust and Mike Worhach. Also present, Stacey Koepfel, Executive Director.

Guests Present: Jack Fitzgerald, new Director, Ayanna Lord, Manny St. Vil, and Alphonse Litz, of Boston Explorers, Sam Chambers, Mayor's Liaison to the South End, and Peter Bowne, South End and Lower Roxbury Community Gardens.

Members Excused: Michael Hall, Dave Crowley, Paul Duffy, Yvonne Lee, Kim Schultz and Ellen Sheets.

Members Absent: Ken Tutunjian.

Regina called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Peter Bowne explained that the Trustees of Reservations holds the title to all community gardens. The garden tour will take place Saturday June 18, 2016 from 10-4. Marie will share an email with names of past volunteers with Peter.

On behalf of Boston Explorers, Alphonse, Manny, and Ayanna expressed thanks to Ellis for our support. Our scholarships went to two South End kids. Boston Explorers' annual fundraiser will be Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in the courtyard of Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology.

The March minutes were approved as presented.

Executive Director's Report: The Ellis fundraiser will be June 19, 2016 at Mistral from 5:30-8:00. Tickets are \$100. The website portal is up and running. We are doing well on sponsorship and ads. We need auction items.

Committee Updates:

Community Outreach (John Chambers): Ellis will provide a Mothers' Day brunch to Casa Myrna.

DLZ (John Alekna): Permitting is complete for the Simon Tower Copley project and ground has been broken. CIM Group and Center Court Mass, LLC have acquired 95 Berkeley Street. They are not sure what they will do with it, but are not renewing leases. It was suggested that they present to Ellis. The owners of Aquitaine have begun the application process for outdoor seating. DLZ has reached out to Sam Chambers to make him aware that the community was not notified to be included in a due process. Sam will reach out to Aquitaine and have them reach out to Ellis and go through the correct process. Jack Fitzgerald has been appointed to the

Back Bay Station CAC. We need to put pressure on the Boston Transportation Department to mitigate. Jonathan Smith is representing Ellis on the 40 Trinity IAG. As of April 13th, the developer agreed to 7 onsite housing units and \$13, 500,000 for offsite development. The Boston City Council voted to extend 14 urban renewal plans for six years. In 7 years the BRA is likely to ask for another 10-year extension. Tony Gordon is the Ellis representative on the 380 Stuart Street project. Attorney Patrick Foley has reached out to John Alekna regarding proposed plans for a conversion from 8 apartments to 4 condos, but has yet to connect with him. There have been two letters of opposition from abutters. John Herbert will forward emails with their concerns to Sam Chambers.

Neighborhood Services (John Chambers): Landmarks has officially approved the Berkeley Street project. Work should begin in spring or summer between Tremont Street and the bridge. Sam Chambers will have an inspector out to Berkeley Cleaners on April 21st to see if the sign is in compliance. The City is planning to plant trees in the South End, John Chambers and Stacy will submit a list of empty tree pits in the Ellis to the Parks Dept. Greg Munson is the sole arborist for the city.

Young Professionals (Mike Worhach): There are 33 new members. They had an event at Urban Grape, have had many members interested in serving dinner at Pine Street, and met with the BCA to discuss combining their YP events with ours. Stacy will work with Jason about a venue to meet with other Ellis members to network over cocktails.

Wine Committee (Bill Gregor): May 2nd is Wine and Jazz at Berklee College of Music. The Pride Parade is June 11th. Jane Siegel and John Chambers will be co-marshals. We need a new banner.

New Business: Leo reported Ellis (formerly Ellis Memorial) closed on finances for renovations and hopes to be done by the end of December.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30, followed by refreshments and socialization.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Siegel, Clerk