



**MINUTES OF OPEN BOARD MEETING MARCH 22, 2016
AUTOMOTIVE ROOM BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Members Present: Regina Pyle, Betsy Hall, John Alekna, John Chambers, Michael Hall, Jane Siegel, Patty Brennan, Gretchen Chauncey, Dave Crowley, Leo Delaney, John Herbert, Gordon Holmes, Yvonne Lee, Toby Rodman, Marie Schappert, Carol Trust, and Mike Worhach. Also present Stacy Koepfel, Executive Director.

Guests Present: Sam Chambers, Mayor's Liaison to the South End, Catherine Clark of the McKinley School, and Jack Fitzgerald, incoming director.

Members Excused: Tony Gordon, Bill Gregor, Barbara Hoffman, Ed MacLean, Ellen Sheets, and Kim Schultz.

Members Absent: Paul Duffy and Ken Tutunjian.

Regina Pyle called the meeting to order at 6:40. The venue was moved due to power failure in the main building. The February minutes were approved as written.

Committee Reports: The Nominating Committee introduced the slate of directors for the 2016-2017 year as follows: Chair: John Alekna, President: Betsy Hall, Vice-Presidents: Michael Hall and Ellen Sheets, Treasurer: Gretchen Chauncey, and Clerk: Yvonne Lee. Incumbent Directors: Patty Brennan, Dave Crowley, Leo Delaney, Paul Duffy, Anthony Gordon, Bill Gregor, Gordon Holmes, Ed MacLean, Regina Pyle, Toby Rodman, Marie Schappert, Jane Siegel, Carol Trust, Ken Tutunjian, Kim Schultz, and Mike Worhach. New Directors: Emily Aaronson, Robert Berstein, Chris Block, Ross Bundy, Jack Fitzgerald, Jason Nardella, and Roberta Sydney. Board Resignations: John Chambers, John Herbert, and Barbara Hoffman. We deeply thanked the three board members who will not be returning.

DLZ: The DLZ has been extremely busy with three major developments in a small area. Jonathan Smith is representing Ellis on the 40 Trinity IAG. The developers propose moving the affordable housing to Cortez and Arlington Streets. Although the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA) thought the plan could work, the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) is rejecting the proposal to move the affordable housing requirement offsite and Jonathan is drafting a letter of support for this position on behalf of Ellis. The IAG has written a letter to the BRA requesting a meeting to review their recommendations in person. The IAG is scheduled to meet on 3/30/16. Tony Gordon is representing Ellis on the 380 Stuart Street Project. The project of 165 Dartmouth Street and Back Bay Station is moving into the planning stage. The BRA has asked Ellis to submit three nominees to create a new Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). The DLZ is reaching out to individuals with the qualifications and willingness to serve. Permitting has been completed on the Copley Tower project and ground has been broken. The City Council is due to vote on an extension of BRA powers. The attorney for 86 Berkeley has reached out to ESENA

regarding proposed plans for a conversion from 8 apartments to 4 condos. Ellis has granted non-opposition to 615-615A Tremont, 621 Tremont, and the Friendly Toast Diner. John Herbert opined that neighborhood groups are heard on smaller projects but are not listened to on bigger projects.

Community Outreach: The Executive Committee has selected Casa Myrna Vasquez, St. Stephen's Youth Programs, and the McKinley School with whom to partner with the common focus on education. Casa Myrna Vasquez has domestic violence shelters, a teen pregnancy and parenting program, and responds to over 30,000 calls annually on their domestic violence hotline. Ellis plans to provide a Mothers' Day brunch for the mothers on May 8th. We will need 6 volunteers. Casa Myrna has a Community of Conscience breakfast on 5/17. A table of ten costs \$750. There is also an opportunity for a day of service. John Chambers will explore how other groups got materials donated. He will also send information on welcome baskets.

The McKinley School is a therapeutic day school for pre-K through 12th grade. Catherine Clark, assistant program director, explained that the school partners with Wediko for clinical services, with Sole Train on a mentoring program featuring running, and works with Boston Trinity Foundation and Haley House. Many of the students have trauma histories and are up to five grade levels below where they should be. The school can use furniture, computers, sports equipment, and clothes. Ellis could also do a day of service painting the school. The McKinley allows community residents to use their parking. Michael Hall suggested approaching the parkers for contributions. Catherine will send us the date of the school talent show and we will be in touch.

Yvonne explained the St. Stephen's program, which is extremely organized. They have an after-school reading program for elementary students and a mentoring program through high school and college. There is a group-tutoring program weekly and they could use a day of action on renovation projects. The director is willing to lead a tour of the facility. The project would like a firm commitment from volunteers of one year.

Fundraising: The Ellis Gala will be June 19th at Mistral. We hope to have 100% board participation. John Alekna and Mike Worhach are pushing for larger donors and will sponsor a cocktail party at the Alekna's for donors over \$1000.

Wine Group: Monday May 2 will be the wine and jazz event at Berkelee.

New Business: Ellis (formerly Ellis Memorial) has met with their abutters and hopes to begin construction April 25. They have raised \$2.8 million so far and are having a fundraiser 5/6 at the Cyclorama.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Siegel
Clerk