



**Minutes of Open Board Meeting December 15, 2015
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology Room U202A**

Regina Pyle, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Members Present: Betsy Hall, Regina Pyle, John Alekna, Patty Brennan, John Chambers, Gretchen Chauncey, Leo Delaney, Paul Duffy, Bill Gregor, Michael Hall, John Herbert, Gordon Holmes, Toby Rodman, Marie Schappert, Ellen Sheets, Kim Schultz, Mike Worhach

Staff: Stacy Koeppel, Executive Assistant.

Board Members Notified Absent: Jane Siegel, Dave Crowley, Carol Trust, Yvonne Lee, Anthony Gordon, Barbara Hoffman

Board Members Absent: Ed MacLean and Ken Tutunjian

November Minutes: The November minutes were approved.

Financial Report provided by Michael Hall.

- \$42,300 balance
- Running at a slight loss of \$6,082 as anticipated this time of year as we have not collected major revenue from annual appeal and fundraiser.

Executive Assistant Report provided by Stacy Koeppel

- Membership renewal is completed. Of the 172 invoices sent out 18 members did not renew with cause (moved) and 26 without cause.
- The Ellis Political Forum will held on January 26th. Linehan and Michlewitz are confirmed and Chang-Diaz's RSVP is pending. Calderwood Pavilion has donated the space.
- Fundraising committee working on sponsorship and venue for June's fundraiser.
- Holiday Party at Tremont 647 was a success with 65 members attending.

President Report provided by Betsy Hall

- Annual Appeal has been sent out and hope to have 100% Board participation.
- Tony Gordon has resigned from his DLZ Co-Chair position and John Alekna will take over as Chair.
- Community Outreach Committee is in the process of meeting with local non-profits and will report back next month.
- Asked Board to submit Arthur Howe Award recipient recommendations.

Wine Group Report provided by Bill Gregor

- January 13th is the next wine tasting at Bill's home featuring South African wines.
- Progressive Dinner is February 8th starting at Barcelona.
- Berklee Wine/Jazz tasting tentative scheduled date is May 2nd.

Event Committee Report provided by Marie Schappert

- Cooking class is scheduled for January 14th.
- Betsy will send out an invitation to membership.

DLZ Report provided by John Alekna

- John acknowledged Tony for all his contributions to the DLZ committee and will continue to participate as a member.
- On December 8, 2015 an abutters' meeting was held at the request of developer Kennedy Design Build for 615 Tremont. The plan includes a down to the bones rebuild along with a new 13-foot addition to the back. The feedback was substantial and in general supportive of the building restoration but opposed to the addition.
- On December 7, 2015 an abutters meeting was held by owners of Wine Riot to review their proposed plans for a new wine store at 519 Tremont Street. John met with Atelier trustees and will meet with business owner. Toby attended abutters meeting with representatives from local wine stores, Eight Streets and condo owners. Generally response from community was negative. Wine Riot is looking to stay open until 11:00. Abutters concerns were noise, litter and delivery trucks. Wine Riot sponsors a lot of events in spaces throughout the city and would like attendees to have a place to purchase their product.
- 86 Berkeley – Barber Shop building looking to go from 4 occupancies to down to three.
- BRA public hearing on Urban renewal was passed by the BRA board. Tony represented the Ellis and read Ellis' statement which went on recorded and distributed. Ellis was the only neighborhood group in attendance. City Council still has to approve the proposed plan, and then it goes to the State. John and Tony will meet to see if any additional steps will be taken with City Councilors.

Neighborhood Services Report provided by John Chambers

- John thanked Fall Cleanup volunteers.
- Wreaths have been hung in the Ellis neighborhood by Project Place.
- Holiday Tree lighting was a success.
- Berkeley Street project is a long drawn out process (sidewalk repair and lighting). Frank O'Brien is receiving push back from COB.
- City will not give funding for tree pits.
- Mike stated lightening is poor on Berkeley Street.
- Paul is concerned about the removal of Big Bellies in the neighborhood.
- South End Safety meeting is taking place at Children's Art Center on December 16th at 6:30pm.

Young Professional Report provided by Mike Worhach

- YP group steering committee met last week to organize the group and to create mission. As a result, the group will hold a planning meeting to discuss a membership drive social in late January/early February. A Facebook page for the group will be created to help increase YP memberships.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Koeppel