



Minutes of Open Board Meeting November 17, 2015 Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology Room U202A

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

Members Present: Betsy Hall, Regina Pyle, John Alekna, John Chambers, Jane Siegel, Gretchen Chauncey, Dave Crowley, Anthony Gordon, Bill Gregor, John Herbert, Gordon Holmes, Yvonne Lee, Ed MacLean, Marie Schappert, Ellen Sheets, Carol Trust, Ken Tutunjian.

Staff: Stacy Koepfel, executive assistant.

Members Excused: Michael Hall, Patty Brennan, Leo Delaney, Paul Duffy, Barbara Hoffman, Toby Rodman, Kim Schultz, Mike Worhach.

Guests: Gwendoline Tiberghien, Claremont Park, Sam Chambers, Mayor's Liaison to the South End.

October Minutes: The October minutes were approved.

Financial Report: The financial report will be given next month as Michael was called out of town.

Executive Assistant Report: Stacy and Michael will set up Quick Books on line. Members who have not renewed were sent their final notice. Stacy reminded us that she gave each director two new member forms and asked that they follow up. Fundraising Committee: The fundraising committee is discussing venues and sponsorship levels. Montgomery Park is not possible. Other possibilities were suggested. Political Forum: The forum will address current legislation and allow for Q&A with elected officials. The projected date is mid-January. Ellis may be able to partner with the Calderwood. Councilor Linehan has committed and Stacy is working with Representative Michlewitz and Senator Chang-Diaz.

President Report: South End Forum: Officer Luke Taxter and Frank O'Brien of the DPW addressed the Forum. In the works is a Safe Injection Site at Albany Street and Mass Ave, a place to go when high and seek treatment, sponsored by Boston Health Care for the Homeless. The number of homeless people increases as we move into winter. A task force is working on South End parking. The South End will be a Space Saver Free Zone again this winter. There were reactions to the city's plan to reserve parking places for one-way Zip Cars. Charlestown opposed the plan and the Forum opposed the plan. The city is also looking at four spots on Beacon Hill. Betsy reported that Senator Brownsberger was seeking legislation to extend bar hours from 2 AM to 8 AM, but Carol reported he had rescinded his support. The Forum expressed opposition to the BRA Urban Renewal extension plan. Betsy will raise the issue of construction permits with the Forum. Stacy will research Beacon Hill's position of such permits. The Neighborhood Services committee will address the issue.

Committee Reports:

Ellis Wine Group: December 9, 2015 is the holiday party with Aaron Michlewitz at Cathedral Station. January 13, 2016 will be a wine tasting of high-end South African wines. February 8 is the progressive dinner. June 11 is the Pride Parade. Bill is shooting for April for the Berkeley Jazz event.

DLZ: The monthly summary will be placed on the website. The BRA approved the 26-story 380 Stuart Street building immediately after the close of comments. The real play is in the mitigation phase. The Hancock has been a good neighbor and lessened street traffic. 95 Berkeley has been sold to a NY and Boston investment group.

Neighborhood Services: Fall cleanup is November 21st. Flyers have been distributed throughout the neighborhood. Ken offered to deliver them to residents at 505. We have ordered 120 18" wreaths. We make a \$600 donation to Project Place, which will attach the bows. The holiday tree lighting will be December 5 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. Berkeley Street Project: The committee has met with Sam Chambers and DPW's Frank O'Brien. Compliments to Gretchen, who got the Big Belly moved to in front of 711. Ellis purchased the Big Bellies and we would like the signage replaced which mentions our sponsorship. Stacy will follow up with Leigh Bivings, or Regina may know the location of the single Big Belies. The brick sidewalks need replacement due to deterioration and funds for a Walkable City are only \$4 million for the entire city. John Chambers is on the DPW task force, which will investigate options for sidewalk replacement throughout the South End. The DPW will let us know about the availability of additional lighting (acorns and double acorns). The city will not pay for iron grating around trees. Owners who install gratings are responsible for their maintenance. Sam Chambers will contact ISD to review signage on Berkeley. Leo will contact the DPW about the homeless in the Ellis park outside the entrance to the Animal Rescue League. There is a public safety meeting November 30 at D4.

Young Professionals: The October 28 event was a complete success. A shout-out to Mike and Gretchen. 20-25 young professionals participated and 11 joined Ellis. Mike has assembled 7-8 to spearhead a new committee. They are committed to volunteering and networking is hugely attractive. A motion to create a Young Professional group in Ellis was unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee: The NomCom is reviewing the current board and is very interested in contacting some of the YP's.

New Business: We agreed to continue to serve wine at the end of meetings. We will discuss outreach to BFIT at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

A short "social hour" followed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Siegel, Clerk