



**Minutes of Open Board Meeting February 23, 2016  
Ben Franklin Institute of Technology Room U202A**

Members Present: Betsy Hall, Regina Pyle, John Alekna, John Chambers, Michael Hall, Jane Siegel, Gretchen Chauncey, Barbara Hoffman, Gordon Holmes, Yvonne Lee, Ed MacLean, Marie Schappert, Ellen Sheets, Carol Trust, and Mike Worhach.

Executive Director Present: Stacy Koepfel

Guests Present: Emily Aaronson, Roberta Sydney, Jason Nardella, Bob Berstein, Ross Bundy, Jack Fitzgerald, Quinn Valcich from Michael Flaherty's Office, and Sam Chambers, Mayor's Representative to the South End.

Members Excused: Patty Brennan, Dave Crowley, Leo Delaney, Paul Duffy, Anthony Gordon, Bill Gregor, John Herbert, Toby Rodman, Yvonne Lee, and Kim Schultz.

Members Absent: Ken Tutunjian.

Chair Regina Pyle called the meeting to order at 6:35. The guests were introduced. The January minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Hall reported we have \$2,975 in our checking account and \$39,034 in a Hingham Savings CD. We show a net loss for the quarter, but we are doing better than budgeted. Most of our income comes in the last quarter and we should break even by June 30<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of Bill Gregor, Michael reported the Progressive Dinner had 83 people and was a great event. It is a break-even event.

Executive Director Report: The Political Forum was very successful. Approximately 90 people attended. Our thanks to the Calderwood and Sue O'Connell of South End News and NECN. The Calderwood is looking to partner with us in hosting events. One issue raised was airplane noise. Aaron Michlewitz and Bill Linehan are addressing the issue. Stacy will follow up with Kaysie Ives, Ann Hershfang, and Ron Johns of the Seniors, who have been working on the issue. The annual Fundraiser will be June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Mistral has donated space and is trying to secure wine donations. The fundraiser committee consists of Barbara Hoffman, Betsy Hall, Emily Aaronson, Jennifer Girven, Michael Hall, Stacy Koepfel, Paul Duffy, and Regina Pyle. Stacy and Betsy are reorganizing the website.

President's Report: Street Cleaning begins March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ken Kruckemeyer has been selected to receive the Arthur Howe award for outstanding contribution to the quality of life in the South End. Ken was instrumental in stopping the construction of the Southwest Expressway and managed the construction of the Southwest Corridor. He was a commissioner of the Department of Public Works, a leader at Tent City, a Loeb Fellow at Harvard, teaches engineering and planning at MIT and works with Cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Previous Arthur Howe recipients are listed on the website. The award will be

presented at the annual meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, depending on the venue. The Board will probably have an April meeting.

Committees: Community Outreach: The Community Outreach Committee has identified three agencies as potential partners. Casa Myrna offers a hotline that answers 30,000 calls a year, has an emergency shelter, and a teen parenting shelter. Casa Myrna has an Emerging Leaders network, for which Jane distributed cards. One suggestion is that Ellis could provide a Mothers' Day brunch. Betsy and Yvonne are meeting with St. Stephen's to develop opportunities. The McKinley School serves emotionally and intellectually challenged youth. They are delighted to have help because the kids feel that no one cares about them. They could use help in providing school supplies and art materials and a day of service. Regina has spoken to Ted Pietras of SEBA about summer jobs for youth. He will bring it up at their next meeting, but cautioned summer is a slow time for restaurants and retail.

DLZ: John Alekna distributed a summary of DLZ activity. The committee has organized a process to address requests from the neighborhood asking for support for variances. We refer applicants to reach out to Sam Chambers, have abutters' meetings, and apply to the ZBA. John discussed major projects in the neighborhood, including 40 Trinity, Copley Back Bay, and the Hancock Tower. There was concern that the developer wants to relocate affordable housing units to Cortes and Arlington Streets. We applauded Jonathan Smith who represents Ellis on the IAG for 40 Trinity. Ellis does have a voice on issues including low-income housing. We reiterated the stand that buildings with parking do not get South End parking stickers.

Neighborhood Services: It is 99.9% sure that the Better Berkeley project will be going through. The project will redo the sidewalks on both sides of Berkeley between Tremont and Appleton Streets. Boston Shines is confirmed for April 30<sup>th</sup>. The city will provide equipment and T-shirts. At the next Board meeting we will have sign up for shifts. We want to get employers involved. Boston 2030 is having a community feedback session March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Send comments to John Chambers, who will forward them to Sam Chambers. Stacy and John will conduct an inventory on trees and tree pits in the neighborhood and will forward empty or deteriorating sites to the Parks Department. Signage is an issue, especially on Berkeley Street. Sam will ask Code Enforcement what the standards are and we will then figure out how to address non-compliance.

Young Professionals: The second social event is scheduled at the Beehive February 24<sup>th</sup>, and they are interested in doing a wine event. They hope to sponsor a trivia team at Cleary's. Their information is on the Ellis website and they have a South End Young Professionals Facebook group. We applauded Mike Worchach for helping to pull together the YP's.

Other business: The 570 Market is closed, as owner Allen Seletsky is gravely ill. We thanked Marie for a very successful class at Sur La Table. The group closed down the store!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35. Wine and informal conversation followed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Siegel, Clerk