



**Minutes of Board Meeting August 25, 2015
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, Room 202A**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35.

Members Present: Betsy Hall, Regina Pyle, John Alekna, John Chambers, Michael Hall, Jane Siegel, Gretchen Chauncey, Dave Crowley, Leo Delaney, Paul Duffy, Tony Gordon, John Herbert, Barbara Hoffman, Gordon Holmes, Yvonne Lee, Toby Rodman, Ellen Sheets, Carol Trust, Kim Schultz, Mike Worhach.

Members Excused: Patty Brennan, Bill Gregor, Marie Schappert.

Members Absent: Ed McLean, Ken Tutunjian.

Guests Present: Stacy Koepfel, executive assistant, Amy Mahler, City of Boston.

Regina thanked Betsy for a masterful letter about the BRA. Betsy credited Jonathan Smith for the basic draft.

The July minutes were unanimously approved with the addition of the beautification grant Amy Mahler had described.

Treasurer Report: Michael distributed a financial statement. Next month will include Stacy's hours. Committee members should submit expense statements to Michael.

Executive assistant Report: Stacy gave an update on renewing delinquent memberships, the Yard Sale, and the September 1st patio dinner at Zocalo.

Ad Hoc Planning Committee: John Alekna distributed a summary of the meeting. It was recommended that we have fewer speakers and more content. Chairs will report monthly to the Board. Monthly reports will be posted on the website. We discussed the possibility of making the association name reflect the neighborhood, but agreed not to make a change. The Communications Committee will add us on Linked-In.

Membership Committee: There will be a New Member party 9/24 and on a quarterly basis. The joint event with Childe Hassan Park was very well received. We are reaching out to Hayes Park for joint activity. Membership is conducting a new survey to identify active voters who are not Ellis members. Mike Worhach and John Alekna are planning to put together a young professionals group.

Neighborhood Services: John Chambers reported on attempts to follow up on beautification funds. We will seek more information about funding available to the Main Streets Gateway programs. We will discuss Berkeley improvements with Old Dover. Carol will draft a letter about needs for Berkeley Street and send it to Betsy. Dave raised the issue of having a parklet on Berkeley. We noted that lighting was problematic on Berkeley from Tremont to the Pike, leading to prostitution and crime. Amy suggested calling 311 and suggested having additional people call 311 about sidewalk problems.

Development, Licensing, and Zoning. Ellis wrote a letter to the Mayor about the BRA, which stimulated much activity from other neighborhood groups. We noted there was a conflict between planning and development in the BRA, which affects the city as a whole. The South End Forum will take up this issue. Amy noted the Mayor conducted two audits of the BRA and agreed it could be better, which is why the city is planning for Boston 2030. 95 Berkeley is to be sold, but will honor their leases.

September 30 is the first wine tasting of the Ellis Wine Group.

The September Board meeting will be changed to September 29 because of Yom Kippur.

New Business: Leo reported Ellis Neighborhood House hopes to begin renovation in the spring. It was agreed he will present plans to the Board at the next meeting. They are dropping Memorial from their name.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 for wine and conversation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Siegel, Clerk