



**MINUTES OF ELLIS BOARD MEETING AUGUST 23, 2016
1 Chandler Street**

Directors present: John Alekna, Gretchen Chauncey, Betsy Hall, Michael Hall, Chris Block, Ross Bundy, Dave Crowley, Paul Duffy, Tony Gordon, Jack Fitzgerald, Gordon Holmes, Jason Nardella, Regina Pyle, Toby Rodman, Carol Trust, Roberta Sydney, Marie Schappert, Ellen Sheets and Mike Worhach

Also Present: Stacy Koeppel, Executive Director, Matt Rhoades, Ellis Member and Member of the DLZ Committee.

Directors excused: Emily Aaronson, Bob Berstein, Patty Brennan, Bill Gregor. Leo Delaney, Yvonne Lee.

Directors absent: Ed MacLean, Jane Siegel and Ken Tutunjian.

John Alekna called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. July minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman's report: John Alekna presented the Ellis 2016-17 committee assignments and asked that the board members review the list and confirm their participation. He focused on the importance of the role of the Committee Chair who will drive the success of the committee and hold its members accountable. John requested each Chair to report to the board monthly using the DLZ reporting template which Stacy will forward.

John announced the EC is proposing to add a scholarship committee with a financial commitment of \$5000 from the Ellis and has asked Marie Schappert to chair the committee.

Marie Schappert presented a draft of the mission of the Scholarship Committee which is to create an academic and educational scholarship fund as a permanent way for Ellis to give back to the community. The committee will work to define the purpose of the scholarship, what institutions will qualify, the criteria for the student selection and how it's funded and administered. Marie asked for help in recruiting members for the committee. She currently has recruited Grace Gregor and Paul Duffy.

There was a healthy board discussion about the committee, which included how matching funds would work and what the scholarship name would be. Dave Crowley suggested the recipient should be someone who lives in the Ellis if possible and Toby Rodman asked if it could be spread out amongst several students. John Alekna

stated the committee will decide how it functions. Tony Gordon suggested the scholarship go year-by-year.

John Alekna made a motion to add the Scholarship Committee with a \$5000 commitment from the Ellis. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report: Gretchen Chauncey announced no financial report was available this month due to numerous vacation schedules.

Stacy requested each committee chair send in their 2016-17 budget.

Executive Director's report: Stacy just returned back from vacation and is working on membership renewals. She will be sending one more renewal email followed up by a hard invoice.

Stacy announced the yard sale is scheduled for September 24th at BFIT and to date 6 tables had been sold. Committee is working on marketing the event which will include a donations table for the Ellis and a McKinley School clothing drive.

Committee Reports

DLZ: John Alekna presented a written executive summary. John briefly discussed the following items:

- McKinley School Development: BPS is proposing a full replacement/development. On August 4th a "kitchen table" meeting was attended by Betsy Hall, Regina Pyle, Roberta Sydney and Jack Fitzgerald but little information was conveyed. The DLZ has asked Roberta Sydney and Craig Speck to lead the charge in following developments of this project.
- Urban Renewal Update: Shirley Kressel provided the DLZ with an update on the stalled BRA Urban Renewal Plan.

Jack Fitzgerald reported there is no new information on the Back Bay/South End Gateway Project as it is in the review period.

Matt Rhoades reported on the new restaurant opening in the former Kitchen space. An abutter's meeting was recently held at the location. The concept will be a French bistro and should be opening in October. The abutters were generally supportive. They asked to be mindful of the noise out back where the staff tends to congregate. It was suggested the DLZ create a check list which can be used when a DLZ representative attends these types of meetings.

Community Outreach: Regina reported the committee will be reconvening after the summer to continue their work with McKinley, Casa Myrna Vasquez and St. Stephens. Regina and Betsy met with BPS Ombudsman Carolyn MacNeil who did not have much information about the status of the McKinley but would be glad to attend

an upcoming board meeting with MSBA (Mass School Building Association) representatives.

Regina announced the CO will be showcasing the three CO partners at the upcoming yard sale to highlight volunteer opportunities.

Membership: Roberta reported the membership committee met and discussed ways to increase membership which include growth goals as follows: businesses – from 35 to 40, YPS from 44 to 100 and general membership from 200 to 240. The committee will work to recruit new members by sending out mailings and hosting meet and greets. She feels the Ellis also needs to add a committee to focus on communications, particularly social media.

In order to better serve the organization, the committee would like to invest in a Client Relations Management (CRM) system which will not only keep track of our membership's contact information but can better track events our members are attending and keep better tabs on our fundraising efforts. Committee member Bob Bernstein is overseeing the process. He and Stacy will be reviewing systems.

Roberta made a motion to allocate \$500 to purchase a CRM system. Motion was approved.

Neighborhood Services: No report given

Young Professionals: Ross announced the YPs will be hosting a meet and greet event on September 8th at the Troy. They have partnered with Wine Riot. The event will include a clothing drive for the McKinley School and St. Francis.

President's report: Betsy reported there was an assault in the Southwest Corridor a few nights ago and the assailant had been arrested.

Betsy also announced that the patio dinner will be on August 30 and a few seats were still available. A wine tasting will be held at Tony Gordon's home on September 22nd.

New Business:

John Alekna stated he wanted the board to know that the EC works for the board and asks that the board contact him directly if there are any issues in between board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Koepfel