



**MINUTES OF ELLIS BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2016
1 Chandler Street**

Directors present: Emily Aaronson, Bob Berstein, Chris Block, Gretchen Chauncey, Dave Crowley, Paul Duffy, Jack Fitzgerald, Betsy Hall, Gordon Holmes, Yvonne Lee, Ed MacLean, Jason Nardella, Regina Pyle, Ellen Sheets, Roberta Sydney,
Also Present: Matt Rhoades, Felice Mendell, Sam Chambers, Susan Sherwin (representing ZipCar)

Directors excused: John Alekna, Leo Delaney, Ross Bundy, Michael Hall, Patty Brennan, Tony Gordon, Bill Gregor, Toby Rodman, Marie Schappert, Jane Siegel, Carol Trust, Mike Worhach,

Directors absent: Ken Tutunjian

Betsy Hall called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. Because there was not a quorum, September minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Guest Speaker: Felice Mendell/Question 5: Felice is an architect and has spent the last 25 years as an executive director of a non-profit association for housing. She is now working with Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) to help people avoid displacement from their homes. There is a proposed 1% property tax addition on the property tax currently paid, which is an average of a \$23 increase a year for property owners. Large property and commercial property is expected to foot most of the bill. \$20 million dollars a year would be allocated for affordable housing, green open spaces, and historical preservation. At least 10% of the funds must be allocated to each of these categories. The proposal is to have 5-9 members on the committee with at least one committee member from each of a group affiliated with affordable housing, conservation, and the historical society.

President's report: CMCB asked us to close Warren from Clarendon and Berkeley for Fete de la Music.

Treasurer's report: Gretchen Chauncey presented the budget for 2016-2017.

Executive Director's report: Betsy delivered the Executive Director's report.

- Stacy asked the Board to review a list of members who have not renewed and to indicate which members they could contact to ask about renewal.

Committee Reports

DLZ: Matt Rhoades briefly discussed the following items from a written summary:

- Wink N Nod: Asked to transfer a license to One Appleton.
- 40 Berkeley: They are planning to upgrade the space and turn it into a hotel with a restaurant on the ground floor. The next step is to meet with abutters.
- Columbus Center: There are at least two developers considering reviving Columbus Center.
- Back Bay Station/South End Gateway: The earliest the project will be finished is early 2018. Regarding the station, the developer must respond to the public comments and agency comments.
- McKinley School: There is a year postponement on the table. Roberta discussed a meeting that she attended and confirmed that there will be a one-year extension requested.
- 12 Dartmouth: Ellis issued a letter of Non-Opposition.
- 57, 51, 63, 65 Clarendon: A letter of Non-Opposition has been issued.

Community Outreach: Regina reported on the following:

- Casa Myrna: We are at a stand still with Casa Myrna and are waiting to hear back from them regarding collaborating for Thanksgiving.
- SSYP: A few members of Ellis attended an event at St. Stephen's and had a tour of the facilities and the programs. The kids at SSYP are mostly from Blackstone and Hurley. Most of the programs relate to afterschool mentoring and tutoring and there are a lot of opportunities for volunteering. SSYP invited any interested Ellis members to have a one-on-one meeting with their staff for more information and to discuss which volunteer opportunity would be the most appropriate. SSYP invited the YP to have a meeting at SSYP, and to see how they can participate. Among the opportunities include literacy and mentoring programs, job shadowing, participating in retreats, as well as volunteer at the school library at the Blackstone.

Scholarship Committee: Duffy reported on the following:

- Duffy suggested an addition to the website that allows members to contribute to the fund.
- Duffy also suggested including a donation section on the membership renewal form.

Membership: Roberta reported on the following:

- The committee is deciding between two finalists for the customer relational management (CRM) platform.
- Halloween block party: 2-4pm at Tadpole was well attended; handed out about 50 member forms.
- New inaugural event: Ellis Women's event on November 15 at Woodmeister Master Builders on Washington Street.

Neighborhood Services: Dave is focused on having the members of the committee generate ideas, especially ideas that last for a longer period of time. He mentioned the following upcoming events/projects:

- Neighborhood cleanup: November 19 cleanup work with Sam Chambers. Also look to get mulch and to mulch the tree pits in addition to clean up. Stacey is looking into a partnership with the McKinley kids.
- Annual wreaths: Ed is working on the wreaths, which will be hung on lamps in the neighborhood. Project Place will help us hang the wreaths and take them down.
- Create signs of welcome to the Ellis Neighborhood Association. The city has agreed to hang the signs. The budget will be about \$1000 for the signs.
- Tree fences: Duffy provided a recommendation for a vendor to add tree fences to some of the tree pits in the neighborhood.
- Installing new trees: The city will not install trees on some streets due to ADA regulations. Dave is proposing taking a dual approach: 1) pressure the city to install the trees; and 2) start a fund to start replacing the trees.
- Berkeley Project: The sidewalk project is continuing and the level of the street will be raised.

Chairman's report: Betsy provided the Chairman's report in John's absence.

- Betsy announced new members for the nominating committee, Selom Azuma, John Herbert, Ellen Sheets, Roberta Sydney and Bob Bernstein as Chair.
- December 4, 2016 will be the date of the holiday party. It will be at Banyan and will include food and open bar and be around \$40/person.
- Dave Crowley will head the new neighborhood services committee.
- Matt Rhoades will present the DLZ report tonight.

YP report: Jason reported on the following:

- YP interest in SSYP.
- YP promotion of the Women's event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Lee
Clerk