

Blackstone / Franklin Square Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box  
Boston, MA 02118

Minutes of April 15, 2014

Location: District 4 police station (650 Harrison Ave.)

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM

**Current Board:**

Nancy Farrington, Vice President (acting president)

Erica Rice, Treasurer

Justin Rice, Secretary

Donald Goris-Kolb

Sherwood Hughes

BFSNA Meeting – April 15, 2014

**AGENDA**

- Board Introduction
- Approval of Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
  - The Scholarship Committee's funds will be separated from the BFSNA's account and placed into its own account
- Announcements
  - An at-large position on the BFSNA Board is open. Members of the Association were asked to consider joining or identify/recruit potential candidates.
  - Members of the Association were encouraged to use the City of Boston's Citizens Connect app to report any neighborhood issues.
- Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (Jordan Deasy) – Q&A
  - Jordan Deasy, South End Coordinator with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services made herself available to take general comment or answer any specific neighborhood-related questions.
  - Mayor Walsh is focused on accessibility; anyone in the community can email J. Deasy with a neighborhood-related/ quality of life issue; pushing more services online (e.g., dog license application)
  - Mayor Walsh is looking to streamline the permitting process.
  - Free public Wi-Fi is coming (limited)
  - J. Deasy noted that Boston Shines, the annual neighborhood cleanup, is scheduled from May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the South End. J.J. Foley's has offered to donate refreshments.
  - Jim Keeney noted a garbage issue at Newland and West Newton Streets; David Wisholek asked about opportunities for the promotion of the BFSNA Scholarship

- Whole Foods (Mike Scott) – Presentation and Q&A
  - Whole Foods is seeking two applications: one for seating and another for sale of alcoholic beverages. Seating is proposed for the southwest corner of the building; the liquor will compliment the prepared foods – it is not intended to be a destination liquor store. Wine/beer will all be sustainably prepared, and some will be organic.
  - The Project will contain 110 dedicated parking spaces for customers – 32 outdoor and 78 indoor
  - No lottery tickets or cigarettes will be sold at the store.
  - The store is scheduled to open after Christmas/New Years 2014.
  - Whole Foods by way of Mike Scott is asking for a letter of support for both licenses; the BFSNA approved their request for a letter of support – Donny Goris-Kolb to draft.
- Paul Lee of Foliaire – June Pride Event
  - On Tuesday, June 3, 2014, the Greater Boston Business Council (GBBC) is sponsoring a block party before the pride lights. The event will be held in the parking lot at 38 Wareham St from 5-8 PM. It will include gourmet caterers and music (no dancing will be allowed); security will be present throughout the event; all proceeds go the Boston Center for the Arts.
- Other
  - 75 E. Dedham Street Development
    - An Association member heard that BU asked the developers to hold off on their plans until June; nothing else known.
  - St. George Apartments/Condos
    - No firm updates; high-end appliances were seen being delivered
  - South End Forum
    - The next three South End Forum meetings (quarterly) are: June 10, September 9, and November 11. The group has a list of initiatives, and is looking for more neighborhood associations to get involved and support its initiatives. Meetings are usually held in the community room on Shawmut Avenue.
    - The group originally started out talking about public works issues, but it has evolved into greater neighborhood issues
  - BFSNA/ Friends Christmas Tree Fundraiser
    - Huge success! The effort brought in over \$3,500 in profit, which was split between the BFSNA and the Friends Group.
    - Jim Keeney announced that there is City Council meeting tomorrow at 4:00 PM to discuss the infectious disease laboratory - Yancey's proposal to ban BSL4 research.
- Committee updates
  - Scholarship Committee
    - The Scholarship Committee took the past year off from fundraising, but has earmarked its next fundraiser for October of this year. Ideas for this event include using the Children's art center for a cocktail party or sending

- patrons to local, participating restaurants where the restaurant would donate a portion of the customers bill to the scholarship fund
  - The group is looking for volunteers to handle the scholarship itself (i.e., getting the word out, looking for applicants, interviewing candidates – other – fundraising/events)
  - This year, the Scholarship Committee is offering one \$2,000 scholarship and two \$1,000 scholarships. Applications are due one month from today (May 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>).
- Events Committee
  - The Events Committee is thinking about the following efforts: window box or stoop decorating (e.g., flowers, etc.); flower sale next Spring; supporting Summer Solstice by Washington Gateway; a Halloween event with food trucks; a movie night. The group is looking for volunteers.
- Scott Hawkins – Presentation and Q&A
  - Scott Hawkins, representing interests that would like to open a medical marijuana dispensary in the South End, provided an overview of the proposed Project (i.e., where it would go, planned security measures, the state of medical marijuana in Massachusetts)
  - BFSNA members expressed concerned over the potential for increased crime in the neighborhood, and did not understand why this particular drug-related facility must be co-located with existing drug-related facilities in the area. S. Hawkins explained that the proposed facility would maintain the highest security standards, and that location is often dependent on city zoning and neighborhood characteristics.
    - Some members of the Association perceived S. Hawkins' explanation as a negative characterization of the area
- Upcoming events
  - The BFSNA Lunch Group meets monthly; the next gathering will be on April 24 at 12:30 PM at Seiyo (1721 Washington St)
  - Boston Shines, the annual spring neighborhood cleanup, is scheduled for May 10
  - The next BFSNA Social will be held on May 21 at Seiyo (1721 Washington St)
  - The next BFSNA Business Meeting will be held on June 17 at the D4 Police Station
  - Blackstone Community Center to hold first-ever fundraiser on May 3, 2014
    - Cocktail hour at Stella (1525 Washington St) followed by a performance by Ego & the Oracle at the Community Center (50 West Brookline St)

Meeting closed at approximately 8:25 PM