

# BLACKSTONE/FRANKLIN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 7:00 p.m.  
D4 Police Station, 2nd Floor Community Room  
650 Harrison Avenue

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Board Members in attendance:

Eric Huang	President
Donny Gorbis-Kolb	Vice President
Lisa Jenks	At Large
Matt Mues	Treasurer
Michael Broderick	Clerk
Mark Ott	Friends President

1. Neighborhood Networking commenced at 7:00 p.m. General Meeting commenced at approximately 7:15 p.m.

2. Motion to approve prior meeting: prior to and during the Neighborhood Networking session, copies of the meeting minutes for the September 19, 2015 and November 17, 2015 general meetings were circulated to members for review. Michael Broderick moved to approve those minutes, which motion was seconded and then approved by a majority vote of members in attendance.

3. Treasurer's Report by Matt Mues:

- a. General Account: \$8,400.00
- b. Scholarship Account: \$21,307.00

The neighborhood association funds were recently moved to a new bank. Final numbers on the 2015 Tree and Wreath sale will be calculated and provided soon.

4. Public Safety Matters: Eric Huang explains that Public Safety Committee Chair Mark Howard is currently attending State of the City speech by Mayor Walsh. Last month, there were several shooting incidents, including one homicide, followed by a call for a public safety meeting for public officials, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> jointly held by the neighborhood associations, United South End Settlements, other groups, which meeting was attended by city councilors, state reps Byron Rushing, BPD officials, and others. After the meeting, Eric went on walking tour with Steve Fox of the South End Forum, Councilor Baker, and Mark Howard to identify locations for security cameras.

Sgt. Luke Taxter, Community Service office presented and explained that the most populated areas of the city are within the jurisdiction of D4 and D14; Police Commissioner and

the Police chief were at the Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting; along with D-4 Captain Ivens. This year, BPD has been funded \$0 for new cameras; Councilor Baker looking for funding for 7 cameras for this neighborhood and for Sparrow Park; plan would be \$25k; seeking funds from public and private sources. Once installed, BPD can tie into them at Boston Regional Intelligence Center to be monitored in real time, i.e. local officers can view from their desk. BPD can tie into Maloney Properties' 17 cameras, which were placed with BPD assistance; Longwood Security monitors those cameras and is very responsive.

Other safety items: bike patrols have been called for; the South End is the only district in city to have daytime squad – particular focus of Mass Ave and Albany, but they can deviate somewhat. The other bike units are in Roxbury, Mattapan, but sometimes those squads ride up and down S.E. corridor park and hit every public housing project along there. D44 is most populated district, but least amount of officers per person. For instance, D-4 received 1006 911-calls in the last 7 weeks. Doesn't leave time to be proactive and engage the community.

Sgt. Taxter provides a breakdown of Part I (most serious per FBI definitions) Crimes (attached); no serious violent crimes in our jx in last 30 days. No shots in south end since Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, things are quieting down. Shots are gang related – Villa Victoria is one turf, 1850 is another, Lenox St. is another. The gangs are selling drugs, marijuana; e.g. the guy who was shot Dec. 23 was a drug dealer. Sgt. Taxter suggests that members reach out to Councilor Baker to express their concerns.

Eric explains that we'll be trying to keep track of shots-fired as a metric of safety in the neighborhood; 7 calls in December for shots fired in this neighborhood.

Eric explains the Bay Cove "warming shelter" on E. Newton Street; was downtown last year, from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., was considered chaotic. Never made public before; through SEForum, we reached out to the City; SE hosts its fair share of social services; City agreed not to have shelter here but it would be moved to St. Francis House, Boylston. E. Newton Street will be used as location of last resort only as needed.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Special Program for Opioid Treatment (SPOT) program; SEForum committee met with officials; overview of program: (see attached handout). This appears to be an internal solution to an internal problem – management solution. SEForum voted not to oppose it.

#### 5. Development Committee Matters by Donny Goris-Kolb:

a. Restaurant 35 W. Newton – BFSNA had a listening session with abutters and got good feedback. BFSNA then hosted a presentation by the proponents; general overview, sit-down + grab and go; 56 people, 15 seats on patio, no music; screening, sound buffering; fresh herbs on patio; \$5 - \$10; no open cooking stove; looking to acquire one of last free liquor license – only full liquor licenses are available, although they only want beer and wine. Once they do have a lease signed, they'll start engaging the community and file their zoning appeal. Looking for farmer's market vibe, reclaimed wood; buy spices along with your sandwich. Donny then answered a

number of member questions about the proposed restaurant including whether they have other restaurants (no – this is the first), proposed hours (not finalized), zoning (conditional use permit required), legal status of patio (proponents believe the use is legal), seating on streets (proponents considering for W. Newton side), and whether there are any other proposed tenants (no others).

b. Leggat-McCall development btw Harrison and Albany – process of developing project notification form: an environmental assessment to be submitted end of February; then city puts together Impact Advisory Group (Casey Hines from City putting together – Donny can pass along your name). Donny explains that, due to the proposed height, the developer would need a text amendment, but not a variance.

6. Parks Committee matters: Eric explains recent history of parks and the relationship of the Friends of the Squares with the BFSNA, explains need for board members and volunteers to take on park improvement tasks.

Eric explains the colorful light installation and sculpture in the fountains. Washington Gateway Main Street, in partnership with BFSNA, brought art and light to the squares this holiday season with works by artist Nate Swain. The installations, which are activated every night just after dusk, will remain until early March.

7. Scholarship Committee given report by Lisa Jenks, including overview of the program, our upcoming February 11<sup>th</sup> fundraiser.

8. Quality of Life City Services and misc. announcements: reminder, space-saver free zone, call 311. Villa Victoria Feb. 4 Meeting for redevelopment of BHA West Newton property and Playground. Ellis NA having a group of elected city officials at the Center for the Arts – current issues followed by Q&A

#### 9. Natural Healthcare, Inc. Presentation

Representatives: Steve Barber, founder, CEO, President; his son, Sam Barber (a college senior); and Randy Lamattina, Chief Security Officer.

Eric explains that the proposed marijuana dispensary was listed as agenda item for the recent South End Forum discussion last week; which was news to Eric, who reached out to the above representatives to present to BFSNA. These reps have recently presented to the WSANA.

Randy LaMattina introduces self: retired BPD worked with Captain Ivens on bomb squad. We'd like to hand out the pass-outs. We'll make sure that you get one of these. We've decided that the best way to go about this is to go about an introduce ourselves with info written by experts; have you submit questions to us, so we can bring the right people back here to answer your questions. The CEO and managing partner have great track records. Steve Barber, CEO, is here. We will be prepared to answer your questions. Submit questions to me, and we'll back with answers, guaranteed. I agree with the Sgt.: we proposed donating cameras to the department.

Steve Barber introduces self and son Sam Barber. CEO of Barber foods for 30 years, CEO of a ground that brought casinos 4 year ago in Oxford County in ME – lots of talk about what the development and the jobs it brought there.

Why am I interested in medical marijuana? 1. It's helped family members. 2. I think it's going to grow; should be substituted for other pharmaceutical drugs; 3. I think we'll create good jobs in this business. We want to be a good member of the community and we want to work on safety. My son Sam Barber has really been working on this, senior at Babson, on the ski team.

Robert Lally, Sam's partner, has largest growing operation in Washington State as well and other dispensary operations.

Q: are you here today to introduce it and say what's going on? What's the process?

Randy Lamattina: City Councilor Linehan told us to go to the NAs, then put us in touch Jimmy Chan then onto Old Dover. We want to give you enough time to develop questions.

Bob from WSANA, on the prior 70 South Hampton proposal: We went into fits last year, too many neighborhood social services; people have a right to healthcare and medical marijuana is the law of the land, but this is the worst neighborhood you could have picked. We said in 2013 no dispensaries within ½ mile of Boston Medical Center; drug dealers will get a hand on that product. If you put cheese in a rat infested area, you'll draw more rats.

Sam Barber: we realize this is going on and we truly believe that this will help the community. Let us formulate our answer better.

Member Comment: legalizing substances cuts down on crime.

Member Comment: it's not marijuana, this neighborhood has done its fair share. We shouldn't argue amongst ourselves.

Randy Lamattina: we're talking about medical marijuana here. Needs a rx, needs ID card; no consumption in a public place. Most People who will be using will be delivered a free home-delivery. We're talking about elderly, frail, and sick people, coming in by the MBTA.

Sam Barber: we're really here just to get your questions and concerns.

Q: If you get the medical license and we have legalization. Would you obtain a full retail license?

Sam Barber: We would consider it, but there is a whole process. We would consider it if legalization happened.

Q: we have a lot of freeway traffic. Your proposal is based on easy freeway access; could compound a chaotic traffic scenario?

Randy Lamattina: At max capacity – 100 people a day, we believe the majority would be home deliveries. Minimal impact of increased traffic.

Q: Have you been looking at other locations? Why here?

Steve Barber: We looked at a bunch of locations in and out of the city. I love the building. It fit into the guidelines, it's in a medical area and access to public transportation.

Q: If its home delivery why here? (not answered)

Q: At what point would you have engaged us? We would still not know about the application had I (Eric) not invited you; we thought you'd be presenting. (not answered)

Q: Your adjacent neighbor will be the large Leggat-McCall development, have you reached out to them?

Sam Barber: That's a great point.

Q: Your location would be a block from my son's playground. Are there zoning issues that would prevent this? (not answered)

Q: Who will be better able to answer these questions?

Randy Lamattina: Safety experts. I have not heard about any of these issues. We have done our homework, and we didn't know about these issues. We need time to see this is how we can answer your questions. Submit questions to my email (Randy provides a few business cards).

Natural Healthcare, Inc. representatives then left. Members then discussed the best way to articulate and amalgamate their concerns about the proposal, and settled on having BFSNA organizing a listening-session type meeting, create a summary of concerns to be circulated and reviewed first by members, then submitted to the proponents.

Meeting adjourned approx. 9:10 a.m.