

Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association
General Meeting

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 21st, 2020
D4 Police Station, 2nd Floor Community Room
650 Harrison Ave

AGENDA

Join us for our next general business meeting. Bring your friends and neighbors, and participate in the discussion. Our agenda will include the following:

7:00 p.m. Welcome and announcements (BFSNA board).

7:05 p.m. Record keeping (Matt Mues): Treasurer's Report.

7:10 p.m. Public Safety update (BPD and Jonathan Alves).

7:15 p.m. Introducing the Alexandra-Ball Neighborhood Association. The "Alexandra-Ball Neighborhood Association" is a brand-new organization formed to advocate for residents living on the other side of Mass Ave. from us, in the area bounded by Harrison and Shawmut avenues and over to Ball Street (next to Jim Rice Field) and the vicinity of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission building). ABNA representative James Dilday will talk about concerns and issues in that part of the neighborhood and we'll discuss shared priorities.

7:25 p.m. Proposed "executive suite" short-term rentals at 601 Albany Street (Sonder). Hospitality firm Sonder is seeking City of Boston permission to convert 14 of 40 existing rental apartments at 601 Albany Street (the building between East Brookline and East Canton streets roughly opposite the former Flower Exchange site) to "executive suite" short-term rentals--one of a number of such requests around the city. Sonder's Gregg Klein and their zoning attorney Matt Eckel will tell us about what is proposed and why, the process and timeline involved and take questions and comments.

Note: BFSNA will not take a formal vote or position at this meeting, but may do so in the future if warranted. To help us gauge sentiment, people with opinions about this proposal, or the STR issue generally, are encouraged to attend or otherwise let us know how they feel. It's our understanding that the City will be holding an abutters' meeting on the application at a date TBD.

Update: The 601 Albany Street item was removed from the agenda due to Sonder cancelling.

7:50 p.m. Update from the City on "Mass/Cass 2.0" (Chief Marty Martinez). City of Boston Health & Human Services Chief Marty Martinez will be back to discuss progress to date on the City's "Mass/Cass 2.0" initiative to address the challenges of homelessness and addiction in the South End, including heightened services for people afflicted and better mitigation of public safety and quality of life impacts on residents. As always, questions and comments will be welcome.

Note: The City of Boston's Mass/Cass Task Force (an advisory group to the City, representing services providers, institutional stakeholders and residents in the South End/Newmarket and environs) had its first session in December and will meet monthly going forward. BFSNA has a seat on this panel and members and residents should let us know of any questions or concerns they'd like raised there.

8:45: Adjourn.