

BLACKSTONE/FRANKLIN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes for its meeting of May 21, 2019

D4 Police Station Community Room,
650 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

Convened at 7:05 PM

Welcome and Announcements:

7:05 PM

BFSNA co-president Toni Crothall welcomed attendees and three persons briefly introduced themselves and their work:

- Andrew Maydoney, the new executive director of Washington Gateway Main Street, described his group and some of its upcoming activities.
- Kristin Beazley, an artist and South End resident, spoke about the community of artists who work in the former Bates School.
- BPD's "Officer Mike" of D4 introduced himself and explained he is patrolling the areas around O'Day Playground and Blackstone and Franklin Squares.

Record Keeping:

7:15 PM

Matt Mues gave the Treasurer's Report: The BFSNA operating balance is approx. \$12,000. The Friends of Blackstone and Franklin Squares account balance is approx. \$26,910.

Election of the BFSNA board:

7:15 PM

Nominations and expressions of interest having been sought at our March 2019 meeting and via our monthly newsletter, an election for the board of Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association was held. A motion was made, seconded and approved by a member vote of 17-0 to elect the following persons as officers and directors: Jonathan Alves, Toni Crothall (Secretary/Clerk), Heather Govern, Matthew Mues (Treasurer), Mark Ott, Andrew Parthum and David Stone (President).

United South End Settlements:

7:20 PM

United South End Settlements President & CEO Maicharia Weir Lytle made a presentation about, and took questions about, her organization and its Vision 125 strategic plan, including the sale of its 566 Columbus Avenue property and planned expansion of its campus on Rutland Street and

creation of a new Harriet Tubman House. She explained USES believes the proceeds from sale of 566 Columbus Avenue are imperative to its financial stability and continued ability to fulfill its mission. USES's focus is on supporting children and families, with about 300 clients a year, including 240 children who attend their Camp Hale at Squam Lake in New Hampshire. Several residents stated their support for USES and its work.

Friends of the Squares

7:30 PM

Toni gave a brief update about Friends of the Squares, including that employees of local business Norbella would be conducting a clean-up in the Squares on Wednesday, May 22nd.

State Rep. Jon Santiago

7:30 PM

Rep. Jon Santiago, who represents much of the South End in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, including BFSNA's area, spoke about his work on Beacon Hill and heard people's concerns and priorities for the coming year. Selected points:

- His top priorities include housing and addressing the opioid crisis. On the latter, he supports medication-assisted treatment, convened a community forum and has advocated in support of creation of a recovery campus on Long Island.
- In the most recently-approved state budget, he was able to secure funds for a new position at Boston Healthcare for the Homeless and for the South End Library.
- Jon, who was first elected in November 2018, plans to continue his work as an ER physician at Boston Medical Center, but on a reduced one-day a week schedule.

Additional introductions

8:30 PM

At Large Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George attended this meeting and introduced herself to members, briefly relating her background and priorities, particularly advocacy for the Long Island initiative, working to have needle takeback in all pharmacies and homelessness issues.

Jeff Ross, a South End resident who is an At Large candidate for Boston City Council, introduced himself.

Adjourned at 8:40 PM.