

## **Blackstone / Franklin Square Neighborhood Association**

**P.O. Box**

**Boston, MA 02118**

**Minutes of January 20, 2015**

Location: Las Ventas, 700 Harrison Ave.

**Meeting** was called to order at approximately 7:03 p.m.

### **Current Board**

Nancy Farrington, President

Sherwood Hughes, Vice President

Erica Rice, Treasurer

Justin Rice, Secretary

Donald Goris-Kolb, At-Large

Andrew Parthum, At-Large

Lisa Jenks, At-Large

- Approval of Novemeber minutes  
Sherwood made motion to approve. All approved.
- Treasurer's Report: \$4,700 in general fund.  
Raised \$3,153.65 from the tree sale. So that means B/FSNA and Friends Group each take home \$1,576
- Potrollman Bill Slyne from the D4 Police Station briefed the grop. A representative from D4 is going to brief our group from now on. He said there were three agrevated assaults in our area recently, including two domestic assaults. He said not to leave anything in motor vehicle to avoid having your car broken into. He said the homeless situation is big a big problem and not to give money to panhandlers because it encourages it. He said if you are going to give them money don't engage with them.

Jordan Deasy from the Mayors office said the South End has a rep on the mayor's new homeless taskforce. He has tasked the group to come up with feasible ways to improve homelessness in 90 days. She said we should see progress from that that soon as the 90 days is almost up.

- Formation of Crime Watch

Secretary Justin Rice talked about witnessing a mugging at 9 am recently in an alley between E. Concord St and Worcester Square. Board member Lisa Jenks also has a friend who was recently mugged. We asked the group if anyone would be interested in forming a Neighborhood Crime Watch along with the Worcester Square Neighborhood Association. We are going to ask Carolyn MacNeil from the BPD Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit to come and speak to us at our March meeting about what that would entail.

- What's happening in the Squares

President of the Friends Group Courtney Trautman said the group's next project will be to replace or refurbish the benches in Blackstone and Franklin Squares. One option is to have the iron worked refinished and put new slats on the benches. They could use one of two different kinds of wood or maybe composite material. Might be stuck with wood because it's a historic park and city likes painted benches so they can easily paint over graffiti. He is working on budget numbers for that. Also \$10,000 donated by developer of 5-10 St George St. will be made when the project is completed. The developers of the new Royal building in the old Salvation Army facility on W. Brookline and Shawmut are also likely to donate \$10,000 for the improvement of the parks.

- Au Gallery Scholarship fundraiser

Christopher McBride from the Scholarship Committee talked about the scholarship fundraiser on Feb. 12 at the Gold Gallery on Tremont Street. He said the space was donated by Gold Gallery and Visual Dialogue donated the save the date cards that are circulating now. Election officials have confirmed they are coming, including Reps Byron Rushing and Aaron Michaelwitz and City Councilor Tito Jackson. Catering will be done by Alahandro, the bartender at Stella. The owner of Stella is donating the food. Kettle One is sponsoring the event. Music trio will be provided by Matt Hall, who was a recipient of the scholarship a few years ago. Only 125 people can fit in the space. Silent auction will be smaller than in past years when we had 40 silent auction items. The focus will be on raising funds for the students. Tickets are \$75 per person.

- Nancy announced that the city is hosting a public meeting on Home sharing websites such as Airbnb. The meeting will be Jan. 26 at 6:30 at BPL to understand how residents feel about this emerging market.
- 46 Wareham redesign

The city originally turned down the developers proposal and asked him to go back to drawing board. He has done so by turning the second floor into a commercial and office space. He has removed partitions in the live work unit so it's more open and conducive for artists. There will be restaurant space on the first floor and the Society of Arts and Crafts will occupy a space on the first floor as well. SEBA and Urban Management and Society of Arts and Crafts and neighbors have all written letters of support for the project. Jordan said they will have to come out for another community meeting. She said the city did not support it originally because they were concerned about artist studios across the street. She said the zoning code was recently redone to preserve light industrial. Residential was originally forbidden. She said the city is trying to preserve work done on the zoning code. She said they want more balance and mixed use. The original design was too much residential.

- Jordan said Olympics community meeting Jan. 27 6:30 at Suffolk Law School.
- Membership committee  
Lisa Jenks will head up the new membership committee. She said she keeps meeting people who don't know about us and people aren't clear what the boundaries are. She wants to start a poster campaign to get more people involved. If interested let Lisa know. We will put info on website and facebook.
- Parking on Shawmut

Shawmut and West Newton resident Eric Huang said the area on Shawmut between Brookline and Worcester St. is not resident parking. He said a lot of cars with out of state license plates and now resident stickers park there. He said given the parking crunch in the neighborhood he would like to petition BTM to change it to resident parking. Jordan said there is a process for residential parking that includes getting 51 percent of all people on street to sign a petition. Eric said he would head up this effort.

Meeting adjourn 7:54 p.m.

