

Charlestown Neighborhood Council
January 5, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Charlestown Neighborhood Council Chair, Tom Cunha, called the January meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, with 17 meeting members present.

Motion to accept the December meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion to seat Karson Tager as the Precinct 4 representative and Lisa Collins as the Precinct 7 representative to the Charlestown Neighborhood Council. **Approved**

CNC wishes to thank Ed Zacharias and Kate Kelly for their dedication and commitment to the CNC during their tenure as precinct representatives. They will be sorely missed and are welcome to join the Council at any time to share their community energy.

Motion to postpone election of CNC officers due to the passing of vice chair. **Approved**

Motion to suspend with the regular order of business. **Approved**

CNC chair wishes to take a few minutes to remember David Whelan, Precinct 2 Representative and Vice Chair of the CNC. It is hard to express the degree to which David's passing has and will continue to impact this Council and our community. David was a man known for his kindness, honesty, intelligence, ceaseless energy and sparkling wit; a man of gigantic stature in the Town who was always ready, willing and able to do whatever needed to be done for his family and his neighbors. He had a special grace which allowed him to look any struggle in the face to make all around him feel better. It has been a tremendous honor to serve with David on this Council and to be able to have known him as the great friend that he was. We are all far better for his being a part of our lives and we will forever benefit from his counsel and commitment to our community. Although his chair will remain empty tonight, he and his contributions to Charlestown will be forever remembered and appreciated.

All rise for a moment of silence.

Motion to return to the regular order of business. **Approved**

Correspondence

Contact from **Corcoran Jennison** regarding the BHA reconstruction of the Bunker Hill Development:

- Information given out was not accurate
- Remains committed to a plan by 10/16
- Must come to the community to explain the process and timeline
- Should go through CNC Development Committee process

- Need a new liaison, Finneran, to take over from Milles Byrne and will meet with the CNC E-board to develop questions for the developer
- Past meeting with tenants was not productive regarding future reconstruction as they were primarily interested in resolving issues of relocation
- This project represents one of the biggest changes since urban renewal
- This project involves both public and private entities
- Developer will be invited to the February CNC meeting to answer questions posed

Motion to suspend with the regular order of business.

Approved

Presentations:

Andrea Burns, Commission on Affairs of the Elderly

Initiative called ***Age Friendly Boston*** (World Health Organization initiative)

- Assessing readiness to deal with aging population
- Initiative was adopted Spring of 2014 and started in Fall, 2015
- Listening sessions were held in all communities in the city
- 3500 surveys have been completed by Boston residents
- City is also engaged in other initiatives including *Imagine Boston*
- Many planning processes going on in all neighborhoods in Boston
- Good timing for *Age Friendly Boston* to work into Master Plan for City
- Housing, communication, social inclusion, civic engagement (major domains)
- Taxes were a very large concern by those aging across the city
- Looking at policy and process
- Large number of elderly housing developments in Charlestown
- People in elderly housing have serious questions and concerns
- Large percentage of Charlestown elderly are aging at home--how can they get services?
- We need to service those already in housing in Charlestown who are living independently but need support in their homes
- Surveys are available for anyone 50 year of age or older to fill out
- All actions will be driven by the report compiled from surveys
- Zelma Lacey population concerns are for traffic calming efforts on West School St

Report will be available by June, 2016

Motion to open the floor.

Approved

Kate Kelly-Concern for Zipcar parking

- How were those spots designated?
- There was no community process
- Those spots have been relocated
- CNC was quick to respond to the problem with assistance from Tom McKay

Victor Merullo, Bunker Hill St.

- Tax bill concern especially for those on a fixed income
- Feels there has been an unreasonable reassessment
- CNC to ask the city to come and explain how/why tax bills were increased

Motion to close the floor.

Approved

Committee Reports

Public Safety--Ed Grace reporting:

No reports available at this time.

Basic Services--Amanda Reinfeld reporting:

No update available on **Decca** (Constitution Marina):

- Does the National Park Service have a position on this?
- Did they get a beer and wine license?
- John Campo was suppose to be present tonight and did not appear
- Charlestown has a significant interest in this even though it is located in Navy Yard--this is not just of local neighborhood concern.

Casella Waste Management

- 1/25/16 meeting scheduled at the Knights of Columbus Hall on expansion of operations including extension of hours through the night.

Beacon Hill Gym

- They postponed their hearing because they were not in agreement with Citibank and the building owner
- CNC has voted to support this project

Wynn Management--JJ's building issue:

- Raised by Kelly Tucker at CNC December meeting
- CNC is ready to meet with these people but there is some confusion as to who Wynn can send to the meeting since there is a state contract and a county group involved

Motion to accept these reports as in progress.

Approved

Transportation--Amanda Reinfeld reporting:

Traffic Light on Chelsea St./Rutherford Ave

- Creating traffic problems when cars do not take right hand turn on right arrow
- history of this issue includes pedestrian problem with a free right arrow displayed. Pedestrians cannot cross the street safely unless the light cycle is changed to remove the green arrow and replace it with a "right on red" option requiring all vehicles to stop before proceeding to right turn onto Rutherford Ave
- CNC will ask the city to meet with CNC on this issue.

Washington St. Bridge Design and Process:

- CNC was unable to attend the meeting held in the North End

- CNC wants the City to come and explain what the final plan is and how the bridge will be named
- Community interested in having input on this issue

Foul odor at the North End side of Washington St. Bridge

- National Grid will be dealing with this issue
- National Grid claims it is a minor issue that is more uncomfortable than dangerous
- Odor will remain until the reconstruction of the bridge

Motion to accept these reports as in progress.

Approved

Community Partnership Fund (Formerly Mitigation Committee)--Peg Bradley reporting:

- Last tutorial tomorrow night on Green St., 1/6/2016
- We need to reach out to Tom McDonald to participate
- People/orgs need to step up and participate
- Deadline is 1/15/16 at 5:00 pm
- Tutorials are required; next one will be held on 1/6/2016 @7:00 pm, 14 Green St.
- CNC to approve the Conflict of Interest policy that has been distributed for consideration
- Signature on disclosure by CNC member required where applicable
- Definition of "material interest" needed
- Peg is soliciting comments as soon as possible from both CNC members and Spaulding regarding the Conflict of Interest Disclosure process in order to complete a final document for approval
- Last 2 weeks in January is being targeted for completing the application submission process with presentations in February, 2016
- CNC members are all invited to attend presentations which are typically scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 7:00 pm
- 2nd week in February is being targeted for presentations.
- Review meeting will be held at some point after the presentations to discuss merits of organizations' applications, presentations and appropriateness of each request.
- Scoring will be submitted electronically

Motion to accept this report as one in progress.

Approved

Old Business

Ed Zacharias concern with the #92 and #93 MBTA buses because of the schedule bunching

- Buses are inbound and outbound on schedule
- If the bus is late to arrive at its destination, it is required to do an immediate turnaround
- This problem more likely to occur during rush hours
- Federal funding is based on the number of routes completed on time
- Recommendation to postpone this issue until the Spring

CSAC

- No update due to holiday season

New Business

Website Update--New members with emails will be added and the new officers will be listed after they are elected next month.

Motion to invite BTD to February CNC meeting to present update on the new Washington Street Bridge design to the community and to inform the community on the process to be implemented for the naming of the bridge. **Approved**

Motion to have the BHA come to the February CNC meeting to update and answer questions regarding the redevelopment of the Charlestown Development Project. **Approved**

Motion to invite BTD to inform the community as to the potential options available to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety at the Chelsea St./Rutherford Ave traffic intersection. **Approved**

Marion Dancy is changing legal residency to Rhode Island which requires that the *Friends of the Navy Yard* to submit a new representative to be seated on the CNC. Shelly Mogul is being suggested to the CNC to replace Marion. *The Friends* will submit a letter to the CNC.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Public Safety 1/27/2016 @ 6:00 pm Police Station in Hayes Square
- Environment Dept--FEMA flood maps will go into effect March 16, 2016--Open House will be held to help answer questions on 1/12/2016 @4:00-7:00 pm, Boston Teachers' Union, Dorchester. (http://www.greenovateboston.org/flood_maps)

Motion to adjourn at 8:49 pm

Approved