

## **Charlestown Neighborhood Council**

**April 7, 2015**

### **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

CNC Chair, Tom Cunha, called the April, 2015 meeting of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to order at 7:10 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 254 Medford St., with 15 meeting members present. Secretary is absent, therefore, Peggy will take minutes.

Tom Cunha presented Reed Caitlin as the qualifying candidate for the open At-Large seat. He has lived in Charlestown for two years, is the Executive Director fo the LaCrosse Learning Center and lives at 65 Green Street. A motion was made to seat new and was accepted unan

#### **Presentations:**

##### **Vineet Gupta & Alice Brown, Boston Transportation Dept**

Invited all to a citywide planning meeting (visioning workshop) “Go Boston 2030”. It will be held as a forum in Chinatown on May 8&9. A flyer will come out, there is a website (<http://goboston2030.org/en/>), it will be in the newspapers, and in the fall they will come to the CNC.

- Tom mentioned inconsistent policies with heavy impacts ahead.
- Bill wished to be sure that city parking concerns were addressed
- Dave said to evaluate what is not working - No. Washington Street Bridge project, etc. Where is our public transportation? How about the waterways? He wants to help build the plan, not just see it.
- Dan said to be clear about the No Washington Bridge transition.

##### **Cathy Baker Eclipse – City Parks Dept - John Harvard mall renovation**

The community process was started in 2013 to address the rough paving, accessibility issues, etc. and additional funding was requested. Renovations will begin in FY2016 (July 2015) with \$1.1m and includes the play area. Bricks will be replaced, grass will replace concrete, the play area will be enlarged, more lights will be added historic information will be added, and a ramp will be added to the front as well as seating. The trees and sidewalls will remain and the lower portion will receive minimal improvements only. A Friends group will provide funding for lighting and irrigation (connections for water and power will be installed for them).

- The plan is to use Linden and American elm trees.
- Construction will be staged to avoid blocking the streets
- Question of how the lower section will be activated?
- Acknowledge Cutler who gave it to the City to honor John Harvard
- Recommendation to pull back the front corners to open and improve visibility for safety reasons
- More light is definitely needed
- Add benches and café tables
- What about dog waste disposal here and at other parks?
- Perhaps a fence to keep dogs out of play area.

#### **Chair Correspondence:**

City says to “broom” waste into gutter for street cleaners

Dog waste problems - \$100 ticket requires two reports at same location

- Absence of trash pickup has exacerbated the go waste problems with bagged waste found everywhere
- Perhaps we can have a sign-making contest to get people to be more considerate
- Areas such as Terminal Street and behind St. Francis Church are filthy and ignored
- More receptacles/trash bins are needed
- Dog licensing is suppose to pay for this and let the owners know their responsibilities

Propose an ad hoc committee to convene and address an off-leash area with extra registration fees – Lally, Whelan, Galvin, Kovacevic, Babin.

Resident parking in Charlestown has come forward as a “crisis” as presented in the Patriot-Bridge. This time the request is for 6pm to 8am instead of 8am to 8pm or whatever the daytime restrictions are. Previously the parking restrictions were developed neighborhood by neighborhood in order to block commuters using our streets as a parking lot. Apparently the snow has brought up the issue of not enough spaces in town. There are 400 more cars than public space available. An important point is that there are no meter maids (nor footman) to support this time period. Each neighborhood must address this as before.

Zoning and parking issues will be taken up by Amanda

**Public Safety Committee**—Ed Grace reporting: (see writeup in email)

Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Note that “REK” graffiti has begun appearing

## **No Basic Services**

**Development Committee**—Dave Whelan reporting:

Handout of ongoing projects

Updates – St. Catherine’s parcel – permits stalled

Marina meeting next Wednesday at the Constitution Inn

Baldwin Street – concrete forms in this week

**Transportation**—Tera Lally reporting:

Wynn meetings ongoing – plan is not conclusive and another Supplemental Environmental Impact Report is required

Other cities besides Boston wish to revisit the plans

\$ is the biggest issue

**Mitigation**—May update

## **Old Business**

Katie Alitz reported on visiting Harbor Point and that the BHA in Charlestown has decided to request redevelopment. An RFP is due out in 203 weeks. There are several companies interested in applying – Corcoran-Jennison, Forest City, Wynn (not the casino).

Bill commented that the RFP needs to include Charlestown input, address parking and the height of buildings, and provide a balanced community.

Katie said that there is money available that has not been used by Boston. Under the circumstances there will be a public process with HUD in charge.

Tom believes that given the history we will have little say in the development process.

Katie said then let’s go after it. HUD is moving away from this old model across the USA and the BHA cannot continue as is.

Tom brought up that our strength is the residents and families who must agree to the plans. He asked Dave to contact Bill McGonagle (current director) and ask to see the RFP. We want to be at the table with the short list of proposals.

Zoning issues – Dave said that the BRA is receptive to instituting changes in the parking/curb-cut issues. However, 6 Soley Street, under current demolition delay until 4/14, is not subject to zoning and can go ahead as a “matter of right”. There is only a neighborhood overlay district holding back the demolition.

## **New Business**

none

Motion to adjourn

**Approved**