

**Charlestown Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2015**

Charlestown Neighborhood Council Chair, Tom Cunha, called the monthly meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, with 18 meeting members present.

Motion to accept the March and April meeting minutes.

Approved

Chair Correspondence:

Tom met with a developer about the Priscilla/Graphics Art buildings:

- Proposal before the BRA to raze the building
- Parking was not adequate
- Developer needs to go back to the city officials to understand parking dynamics
- Community will be looking for a 20% hiring
- Recommended that they come before the CNC to begin the community process
- Development Committee of the CNC will then take this discussion to the community
- Sullivan Sq redesign is still at issue and any further developing in this area might be premature
- Recommended that they go back to the BRA to review project plans and get some direction
- Berkley Developer

Presentations:

William Christopher, Boston ISD

- Architect
- Lives in Dorchester
- 30 years of being on the “other side” of Boston permitting

Many changes at ISD

- Help Desk is now in place along with a new philosophy
- You will walk out of ISD either with a permit or with a clear understanding as to what you have to do to get one
- Have moved people and departments around
- Technology changes
- Time frames have been instituted to process applications and appeals

Transparency and predictability are the key pieces to the new approach

Trying to be more interactive

New Expedited Zoning process

- Small projects separated from large projects and
- Takes place Thursday nights in a more informal setting
- Tuesday morning reserved for large projects where issues can be flushed out by all impacted interests
- 70 day process (50 days are statutory)—reduced from 6-8 months

Zoning issues are being revisited—many are archaic—while preserving the neighborhood

- We do not want an avalanche of high price development
- Looking for balance

Call the Mayor's Office if there is a problem

Call William Christopher on cell phone directly

New Fire Commissioner works well with ISD

Demolition Delay is required before a house can be razed so that the community can have a voice

Cumbersome website but it is being redesigned

Working to develop a new application for those wishing to start a new business but these people need to come to 1010 Mass Ave for a zoning review

Ground Water Trust—if you are in an area that alters the surface, it will alter the ground water and ultimately the structures—cannot alter the geological structure—there are maps to identify this

16 Oak St house is a beautiful house that is scheduled to be demolished—this will increase the “cookie cutter” look

Have to prove that a building is historic—old houses are not all necessarily historic

Those things that are life and safety driven need to be addressed by ISD

Scope of ISD includes:

- building, environmental, weights and measures (regulatory process for the city)

Sanitary Code institute for housing:

- Student housing is a major problem
- Large rents hold the landlord responsible

Motion to close the floor.

Approved

Safety Committee—Ed Grace reporting:

4/22/15 Police Station

Homicide:0

Sexual Assaults:0

Robberies:10

Aggravated Assaults:3 Auto Theft:3

Larceny:7

Larceny from Motor Vehicle:6

All over community

Graffiti:0

Community Disorder:0

Towed Motor Vehicle:0

MV Violations 96

Parking Citations 83

Drug Stats:

Overdoses year to date: 8

Last 30 days:2

Deaths :0

Arrest Stats: March

Warrant Arrests 3
Larceny 1
A&B 6
Drugs 4
Murder 2 (Arrests from Ryan Morrissey Death)
A&B with D/W Knife 1
Assault with Knife 1
Vandalism 1
Threats 1
Disorderly 1
Intimidating a Witness 1
Total for March 22

April to Date of Meeting 4/22
Warrant 5
Larceny 3
Violation of Auto Laws 1
A&B 2
Drugs 1
Trespassing 1
Larceny from M.V. 1
Total 14

Next Meeting Wed May 27th at 6 PM at Area A-15 Station Community Room 2nd Floor.
Meetings have been moved to the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 pm
Motion to accept as one in progress.

Approved

Basic Services—Dave Whelan reporting:

Eden St. Park basketball court and some maintenance to the hockey rink only at this time

Money in proposed FY2016 budget for renovations to rest of the park

Construction is impacting residents' ability to park

No feedback was secured

Resident Parking

No official communication has taken place with city services or agencies

Seems to be a resident group driven movement

Some question as to whether this is a serious proposal

32 residents attended the meeting but everyone wanted a different plan

Dunkin Donuts

No good notification about the meeting

Owner of the building will set up another meeting

This will require license permitting and zoning issues

Development Committee—Dave Whelan reporting:

Marina update

Residents in the Development need more notice

Water and sewer hookups done

Will try one boat during the winter months-- two weeks behind schedule

Some concern re: new layout

Halvasham will do the design of the harbor walk

Signage will have to be discussed

Issue of removing the gazebo

Marina is now partially populated with some very nice boats

There are a significant number of commercial boats moored outside the marina which should not be there

16 Oak St.

Single family house

Will be leveled for multiple units

Mishawam Community Room for Demolition Delay meeting regarding 16 Oak St

All should be encouraged to attend

Mitigation Committee—Dave Whelan reporting:

New mitigation plan is back on track after weather delays this past winter

Old Business:

BRA Charlestown IPOD (Inner City Point of Development) Parking Requirements

Need volunteers to revisit this issue

These old CNC rules don't really fit today's development

The city has never adopted our parking requests

Motion to adjourn @ 8:50 pm

Approved