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BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

**BVNA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
March 5, 2018

**EC Present:** Bethany Patten, Grant Simpson, Tim Kacich, Trish Gillis, Julie Reynolds, Aoife Austin, Tom Parsi, Gaye Bok, Ben Beck, Allie Fitzgerald, Alex Balukonis, Nancy Morrisroe, Molly Williams, Judy Kamarow

**Other:** Faisa Sharif (ONS), Beth Treffeisen (Boston Sun), Julio Chow, BTD; Carla Tankle, BTD; Joe Fleury, PWD; Josh Weiland, BTD Planning; Ruta (Liquid Art House); Ayanna Pressley, City Council at Large, Ronald Claude (Ayanna Pressley's office); Luigi Natale (Sen. Joe Boncore's Office).

**Start:** The meeting commenced at 7:06 PM

**Community Rel.: City Councilor at Large Ayanna Pressley** provided an update on her legislative accomplishments on the City Council and her agenda and priorities related to her upcoming campaign for the 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. congressional district including: Issues affecting Women and Girls, Liquor License Law, Safety, development, and wellness of women and families, Curbside composting, Support for gun law reform and Criminal justice system reform

**Planning:** Parcel P12-C/: Grant and Bethany updated neighbors on the 2/28/2018 public meeting for the Parcel P12-C project. The proposal is to develop the lot between Wang YMCA, Doubletree, and Tufts parking garage and connect it into Elliot Norton park. The initial proposal contains 100% affordable housing in the tower (171 units), a hotel with 140 keys, 264 new parking spots for Tufts Shared Services, and 8,000 square feet of public library space. During the meeting, the community asked for more library space, lower AMI % for the affordable units, less hotel space, and more residential space. All are welcome to submit [feedback and comments](#) to the website. The developer will provide an updated proposal based on feedback. We could ask the developer to present to BVNA, at which point, we could decide to provide our support.

Liquid Art House: Ruta provided a status update on the renovations to the space. All demolition has been completed, and construction will begin in early March. All of the work will be completed on the interior and will not start until 9AM daily. The disruption to the neighborhood should be limited to a few deliveries. Any updates will be communicated via NextDoor. Hoping to open in mid-June under the name Nahita with a focus on Latin-fusion food, including a raw bar and sushi bar. Hoping to have a patio on Stuart Street in the summer.

**City Services:** Isabella Street reversal – Boston Transportation Department (BTD) presented their proposal to improve the safety of the crosswalk between Isabella St. and Melrose St., which crosses Arlington including: bump out the corners on Isabella

to protect the parking lane, raise the crosswalk to slow cars down, and add flashing yellow pedestrian crossing beacons. They will also raise the crosswalk on Melrose St. and include flashing beacons. The signage provided will include children crossing, as the crosswalks are in close proximity to a school. The flashing beacons can be activated by pedestrians as necessary. Money has been allocated for the project and will be put out to bid with work expected to be completed in Fall 2018 or Spring 2019.

The team also studied the possibility of reversing Isabella street, as requested, but this would have a significant impact on Arlington, Stuart, Columbus, and Berkeley Streets and create an overloaded situation at intersections / controllers on those streets. In addition, it would increase Fire Department response time. Boston Public Works recommended that a speed study be done on Isabella to see how fast cars are traveling down the street, as that is a concern of the neighborhood. The data can be used to support adding speed bumps to Isabella or switching the parking side half way down the street. There is an opportunity to apply for raised speed bumps through the Vision Zero program. What can be done immediately is to add thickly settled signs on Isabella.

Reversal of the street would require the crosswalk project to be halted, and as the funding has already been approved for the crosswalk, it was recommended that the adjustments be made to the crosswalk without reversal of the street. This recommendation was not met with opposition from the BVNA.

Big Belly Trash Receptacle on Isabella St – Still in process with the city.

Rats - Faisa will be conducting a walk-through of the neighborhood in the first week of March with Nancy to note where issues with rats have occurred.

Spring Clean-Up: has been registered with the city for May 5<sup>th</sup> - brooms, etc. have been requested.

#### **Safety:**

Danny Moll reported Crime is steady, some car break-ins. BPD embedded a resource who can fast track paperwork for mental health services. This prevents BPD from having to accompany an individual to the ER and can help move someone into the right type of care.

Caritas Issues: Four tenants at Carita are scheduled to be moved out. In addition, all new tenants will be screened. Caritas lost their manager and he hasn't been replaced yet.

Graffiti Removal - Danny has been working on cleaning up the graffiti in the neighborhood by contacting the building owners and filing a request with the city. We are on the path to reduction. If anyone has graffiti on their property, please let Danny know immediately.

#### **ADCO:**

Nancy Morrisroe updated on city council hearing for short-term rentals. ADCO pushed to remove the investor category from the legislation. A working session occurred last week, and if the current bill is not amended in the next two and a half weeks, it will pass as it without the recommendation from ADCO.

**Adjournment:** The EC voted to adjourn. Meeting adjourns at 8:15pm