



BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

BVNA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2018

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

Other: Faisa Sharif (ONS), Greg Henning (candidate for Suffolk County DA) and staff, Steve Moore (Councilor Flynn's office), Christine Poff (Director, Community Preservation Act), Benji Moll, Rob Murray

Start: The meeting commenced at 7:06 PM

Community Rel.: (a) Greg Henning, Candidate for Suffolk County District Attorney: Greg presented his background to the neighbors – Dorchester resident; worked in the DA's office for 10 years, including roles leading the Gang Unit and the Gun Prosecution Task Force; committed to intervention and diversion work in his community, including working with those who have been prosecuted by his office and through his work as a teacher and coach at Boston Prep. His main focus would be on improving public safety and he would utilize his resources within the DA's office to combat violent crime. As District Attorney, Greg would work to restore trust with the community by getting prosecutors into the community through mentoring and community meetings. He would also work to make sure the DA's office represents the diversity of the community through a diverse recruitment campaign. Sept 4th is the primary date. Please visit greghenning.com for more information.

(b) Christine Poff, Director Community Preservation Act – The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was approved by Boston voters in November 2016 election, creating a fund which is financed in part by a 1% property tax surcharge on residential and business property tax bills, started in July 2017. The fund is used for the following types of initiatives: affordable housing, historic preservation, open space, and public recreation. Of the \$20M in funding, at least 10% must be spent in each of the previous categories and the remaining funding is allocated by a committee. The committee is comprised of 9 members, 5 of which come from existing commissions and 4 selected by the city council. The committee provides a recommendation to the mayor who then provides the recommendation for spending to city council.

Anyone can apply for funding (including neighborhood associations or Friends of the Park). Individuals can apply but are encouraged to seek organizational support. Recently, the committee held a pilot round of applications for funding to test the system and to get projects underway. The pilot received 58 applications

and the committee is hoping to start signing contracts by the end of June 2018. BVNA is encouraged to think of a project for the next round of applications in September, as the committee would like all neighborhoods to be represented. Going forward, there will be two funding rounds per year. The current limit is \$500,000 for the pilot round. Visit Boston.gov/CPA for more information and to view the application

Planning:

11 Isabella Street – Danny and Benji Moll, BVNA member and Developers of Arx Urban presented their construction proposal for the property at 11 Isabella Street. The goal for the project is create 4 units. As part of the project, they will repurpose the garage in the rear, which is no longer usable because the adjacent parking lot behind will no longer allow the property owner access to the garage. The garage will be replaced with a step-up addition to the rear of the building. Additionally, the project will restore the front of the building, add a small room to the top with a roof deck, and create more green space. The designs have been drawn with the intent of keeping the original architecture features. The project will add just over 800 square feet to the existing property. Currently, the garage isn't in the Floor Area Ratio (FAR), so this project will increase the FAR from 2.67 to 3.13.

Specifically, the property will be turned into 4 units, with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths consisting of 2 duplex units and 2 floor-through units. Garden beds will be added to the double sidewalks in the front of the property, which will match the landscaping changes being made on the other end of the street by New Boston Ventures. Adding the additional room on the top of the building will take the height to 48-49 feet, slightly higher than the current 45 feet. However, this is the same scale and height footprint (technically lower) as the project planned next door. The HVAC units will be located at the rear of the building. Fire escapes will be incorporated into the next-door buildings.

The current plan incorporates some violations. First, the rear extension above the garage will increase the FAR, similar to 34 Church. There are setbacks planned in the front and the back. In terms of parking, the plan does not include any new parking, but instead technically removes two parking spaces. The project still will need to be approved by the historic committee.

Vote: Sarah proposed a motion for the executive committee to not oppose the proposed project including necessary variances with the request to include a security camera at 11 Isabella St based on what was presented at the meeting. Two abstentions, none opposed, remainder approved.

City Services:

Spring Cleaning Recap - Over 80 neighbors showed up for the clean-up held on May 5th – Thanks to everyone who came out and helped clean up our neighborhood!

Rats – Nancy continues to work with the city on the rat situation. Updates will be shared as available.

Big Belly Replacement - City Services continues to work on obtaining a replacement for the big belly.

Safety: Graffiti Removal - Danny continues to collect information on other locations. If anyone has graffiti on their property, please let Danny know immediately. Steve Moore from Councilor Flynn's office is also helping out.

Social: Annual Fundraiser: The 2018 BNVA fundraiser was a success, thank you to everyone who helped to organize the event and to all of those who attended. We sold approximately 52 tickets, and grossed \$5,340, as compared to \$7,400 in the prior year.

Parks: Update on state of parks and plans for upgrades/improvements - Aiofe is maintaining the parks at Isabella and Columbus. Tom is responsible for maintaining the park at the top of Melrose and Charles park. Tom and Aiofe will present to the Browne Fund on Thursday at the end of May. At the presentation, they could discuss the change of name for the grant application (from Friends to BVNA). Molly and Grant would like to attend and support. Follow up will occur.

General: Update on recent meetings of neighborhood association presidents w/councilor Flynn & city budget – Steve Moore from Ed Flynn's Office – Meeting occurred in April with presidents of the neighborhood associations for the South End and BV to discuss budget items and have a working conversation around priorities such as - public safety, traffic enforcement, rats. There will be another meeting towards the end of May. Productive and full of action items. Please reach out to Bethany or Steve for any items to be represented in the budget for Bay Village.

BVNA By-laws Amendment – Sarah Herlihy presented amendments to the BVNA bi-laws. Context is that as part of the merger of the Friends and the BVNA, an amendment to the BVNA by-laws was necessary to allow the budget migration. Additional changes were made, as needed, and a redline draft was circulated to the executive committee members a month ago. The changes include a provision for a separate budget to be kept with the parks funding from the Friends (from mitigation with the W Hotel years ago) until it is extinguished. The funding level will be reported at the annual meeting. Additional changes include renaming the Crimes committee to Public Safety to reflect the current status / usage and flexibility was added around the annual meeting date – updated for any date at the end of October.

Vote: Bethany proposed a motion for the executive committee to adopt the amended by-laws as presented by Sarah Herlihy to reflect the “friends” merger and other small changes, seconded by Julie. All were in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

New bi-laws can be found [here](#)

Adjournment: The EC voted to adjourn. Meeting adjourns @ 8:05pm