**BVNA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 4, 2016

**Agenda**

1. Approval of November 2015 Minutes
2. Planning – discussion and vote on plans to renovate 52 Melrose
3. Licensing – Update on use of 333 Tremont St (former Church of All Nations)
4. Safety – Update on recent crime concerns and discussion on lighting, cameras, neighborhood watch
5. City Services – Ideas to support safety goals
6. Social – recap of holiday party and planning/timing for fundraiser
7. Parks/Public Places – planning for spring and tree initiative; President to update on merger with friends
8. Membership – Update on recent efforts to recruit members
9. Priorities and goals for 2016

January Attendees:

Don Albanese, Aifie Austin, Ben Beck, Clyde Bergstresser, Brian Boisvert, Benzie Bok, Gaye Bok, Jo Campbell, Rocque Dion, Allie Fitzgerald, Trish Gillis, Barbara Halfney, Sarah Herlihy, Kathy Hull, Tim Kacich, Judy Komarow, Kendra Mar, Jim McCormick, Nancy Morrisroe, Bethany Patten, Tom Perkins, Grant Simpson, Rob Stenson, Bhamati Viswanthan, Michael Winston

City: Sam Chambers, Mayor’s Liaison

Meeting commences: 7:03PM

**Approval of November 2015 Minutes**

Motion to accept the November meeting minutes by Allie Fitzgerald, second “Benzie”, edit name all in favor - approved

**Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Sarah proposed forming a sub committee to recommend the approval of the annual meeting mins: Tom Perkins, Tim Kacich, & Allie Fitzgerald. Sub-committee recommended approval, recommendation was moved and seconded, unanimous approval.

**Planning – discussion and vote on plans to renovate 52 Melrose**

Met w developer, had answers to most/all questions. Turning the property from multi-family into a two family. Basement and 1st as one unit, upper 3 floors is 2nd unit. Looking for a zoning variance because building takes up entire unit. Looks like a positive move, with a good plan in place. As far as construction goes, asked if they will use that lot instead of a parking space and he said yes. Has met with neighbors and all is good. Met with William Young and seems ok. He’s changing the roofline, but not going up in height to accommodate historical windows. Roof will not be visible from the street per requirements. Motion to not oppose by Jo, second by Clyde.

**Licensing – Update on use of 333 Tremont St (former Church of All Nations)**

Sarah, Gaye and Clyde met before NYE to discuss circular building by the park w present tenants that have a vision for an arts center: yoga, martial arts, musicians, etc. Concept good but, seems unclear whether organization understands licensing needs or has funding. The rave, all agreed, was inappropriate, and they apologized. Lawyer is cooperative. Need neighborhood approval because they are interested in late night events (like 1-4am), but not open to the public, and controlled. They agreed to a probationary period. Agreed events would not include alcohol. Will have a fundraiser, approved for that event. Lease runs out next year, Landlord not returning calls, so possible other use planned for the future. Have reached out to the city to make sure they know about our concerns for the use of the space.

**Safety – Update on recent crime concerns and discussion on lighting, cameras, and neighborhood watch**

Kendra & Judy update. Great turnout for last meeting, the new GM from Revere did not attend (but sent cookies ☺). Almost 30 people. In the past we have approached update with stats, but feel the info is available on Nextdoor. The car break-ins seem to be pure vandalism. Not taking anything. Encourage people to continue to come to the meetings. Numbers matter and show the police we are concerned. Captain seems taken aback, and has stepped up patrol. He and Sargent Chin are on Nextdoor. Discussion got into depth about beat cops, how often they are patrolling, about calls not being codes correctly to trickle up to the police when they report stats. The bb gun issue at Piedmont at Park Square was mentioned as a serious crime.

Common sense recommendations: Remember it’s a city, and use common sense. Don’t have packages delivered, don’t put valuable decorations outside if you don’t want them stolen, don’t leave things in car. If you hear car alarms, and hear things, call 911, don’t put it on Nextdoor.

**City Services – Ideas to support safety goals**

Sarah’s suggestion for 2016: **Take back the Public Safety Meeting!**

4 areas to focus on --

1. Safety Tip Flyers, need volunteers to distribute
2. Lighting in the Neighborhood: replacement of broken lights, etc
3. Cameras: Piedmont St is installing, Revere offered up their guy. About $4500 to install, need internet connection
4. Neighborhood Watch: Very successful in the past. A rep from the city will be at the next safety meeting to talk about best practice.

\*\*\*Action Item – Lights\*\*\* Looking for people to take individual responsibility & action. Call in the issues to 311. Talk to private landowners such as schools department to suggest appropriately placed lighting. Safety committee to identify dark corners. Sam to poll the reports on street lamp outages on 311 to determine what’s going on. Discussion about lights behind the BCAE.

Request of city to clear sidewalks on the way to WholeFoods, esp. behind the Super 88.

**Social – recap of holiday party and planning/timing for fundraiser**

Excellent holiday party! Fundraiser in late Feb, early march, reached out to Smith & Wollensky. Fundraiser there before, Nancy has more details. Date TBD. Encourage all who have skills to donate their goods. Need help to organize. FYI – as a 501c3, people can write off their donations

**Parks/Public Places – planning for spring and tree initiative; President to update on merger with friends**

Jim McCormick is enthusiastic about preserving the trees. Have met with a tree expert who is helping with the initiative. Meeting w Boston arborist later in the month. City has trees, but a manpower shortage. Beacon Hill’s solution was a public/private partnership. Believe that the last pruning was about 8 years ago. We have about 135 trees and about ½ are honey locust. The 311 number works for trees. 311 can also remove the girdles if the tree is “choking”. Also, the timetables the city has given are actually never as long. Discussion about solutions for the exposed roots that are creating sidewalk buckling. There’s a balance between removing the tree and keeping the sidewalks safe.

**Membership – Update on recent efforts to recruit members**

Recent effort got new residents w postcard campaign, and got 12 members out of it. Some were renewals, but most were new. Next group is those that joined Nextdoor, but didn’t change their addresses at the post office. Looking also to target non-renewals.

**Priorities and goals for 2016**

**City Services:** Teach Bay Village to “fish”, ie. use newsletter for neighborhood FAQs; increase lighting in neighborhood. Make bay Village more sustainable.

**Membership:** Double the paid membership

**Social:** Get people to come up with different ideas for social like bookclub, blocks of tickets, potlucks, round the worlds, yard sales, etc.

**Licensing:** Build relationships with licensing establishment at city hall

**Planning:** Build relationships, and reduce the amount of construction, keeping an eye on 333 Tremont, Isabella Street lot & Billie’s lot. Get a little more coordination from the city on the major projects overload (to many dumpsters!).

**Archives:** Get the 6 boxes of archives out of Sarah’s office.

**Parks & Public Places:** Preserve trees, Crosswalk at Isabella, needs to go to the other side and be lighted.

**Treasurer:** File tax return on time!

**Secretary:** Get notes out faster

**Nancy Morrisroe, V.P.** Get bay village better representation at the city level, stop the BRA extension urban renewal zones initiative.

**President:** Merge the parks and BVNA groups, not to micromanage

🡪 Special election plea! Get out the vote! Bay Village can be a force.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm by Allie Fitzgerald, seconded by Paul Buta. All in favor.