**BVNA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

July 11, 2016

July Attendees:

President: Sarah Herlihy

Committee Members:Ben Beck,Brian Boisvat,George Brackett,Pricilla Smith Brackett,Bernice Broysle, Jamie Brewer,Paul Buta,Nancy Cahn, Joe Campbell, Eric Cordes, Roque Dion,Allie Fitzgerald, **Dick Judghans,** Judy Komarow, Joe Kuranda, Tim Kacich,Kendra Mar,Nancy Morrisroe,Bethany Patten,Grant Simpson, James Springgs, Rob Stinson, James Sutherland

Guest:Beth Treffeisen – Back Bay Sun

Proposed Agenda:

1. Parks and Public Spaces. Elliot Norton dedication, update on potential merger

2. Social/Fundraising. Fundraiser 8/7 at Davios!

3. Planning. (a) Back Bay Station CAC – update, (b) roofdeck at 54 Piedmont, (c) meeting on potential turnpike deck project (quasi-revival of Columbus Center)

4. Treasurer. Recent donations.

5. Membership. Update and initiatives.

6. Cocoanut Grove plaque - maintenance and other issues

7. Safety. No update expected.

8. Licensing. No update expected.

9. City Services. No update expected.

Meeting commences: 7:01PM

1. **Approval of June 2016 Minutes**

Motion to accept the June meeting minutes by Allie and Jo, all in favor – approved

1. **Parks and Public Spaces. Elliot Norton dedication, update on potential merger**

Jim:

**a) Tree Trimming**

Rocky re. parking, but improved neighborhood and health of the trees.

Lessons learned for next year, arrange parking at Revere.

**b) Elliot Norton Dedication**

Good turnout, took advantage of the fact that city officials were there

Took City Parks Commissioner Christopher Cook on a walk through the neighborhood to familiarize him w the area, he was impressed, took him on every street, looking at trees, opps to plant new ones, ie. in front of 100 Arlington; Looked at area in front of Cortez street, and a “Freida Garcia” type park, w a privacy wall. Maybe soften the back of the revere with some plantings, and he’s good friends w manager of the hotel. So, lots of upside. May not amount to anything. He didn’t feel rushed, took time to talk.

**c) Friends of Bay Village Parks**

Sarah had a meeting w Bill Nigreen, presented him w a contract for the merge. Mostly, it’s about taking the donor’s money, and spend it on parks. Hope is to bring it to the friends’ org, and vote at BVNA on October. Offer of a contract to Bill is subject to BVNA approval. It’s pretty straightforward. Again – a local law form helping out. So no law suits.

1. **Social/Fundraising. Fundraiser 8/7 at Davios!**

Allie:

Tickets on sale soon. Looking for donation items for things for the silent auction, reach out to Allie and Alex. Ticket price will be same as last year. We gave seed money for appetizers, wine, beer, at Davios. Any donation in kind can be spun into something creative. Can be your time!

1. **Planning. (a) Back Bay Station CAC – update, (b) roofdeck at 54 Piedmont, (c) meeting on potential turnpike deck project (quasi-revival of Columbus Center)**

**(a) Back Bay Station Citizen’s Advisory Commision**

Project going in over Back Bay Station. Kenzie Bok has been point person.

1. Comment period: Comments due June 17th. BVNA put in a comment letter, along the lines of what we discussed. Including traffic, impact on Isabella, cut through on Cortez, Ventilation, etc. Copies of the letter are available.
2. Scope and determination
3. Project review

🡪 we will have another opportunity to circulate the letter.

**(b) Roofdeck at 54 Piedmont**

Plot plan and plans circulated for anyone who’s interested. They are asking for a rear set back variance, abutters have not objections. The formal planning meeting met. Everyone feels comfortable.

Allie, motion to not oppose, Jo second – all in favor -- approved.

**(c) Meeting on potential turnpike deck project (quasi-revival of Columbus Center)**

Mass Pike has a plan to sell air deck rights over the turnpike, and there are a number of parcels near our neighborhood. #18, in front of Cortez, #19 is a park, all the way down towards ink block to #23. Trinity group is having meetings about reviving the conversation, which parcels, very prelim. No drawings, no plans. Perhaps, old Columbus Center plans, maybe w a tweak? John & Tom met w prelim advice on architecture. Re-iterating everything that had been discussed at the original Columbus Center conversations. Randy took it to heart, and felt we are reasonable, and will be good partners in the project.

The last failure mode was about materials, commodity price spike. Other challenges are about moving the pike during the work, as well as the Amtrak.

1. **Treasurer: Recent donations**

Paul:

We’ve had some great initial donations, anonymous, over $1000 in the last couple of weeks, in addition to the membership drive. We have picked up some costs we didn’t anticipate this year, including paying members who have spent money in good faith. Over 200 members. Some of the money is for cameras.

George asked to comment on what we are raising add’l funding for -- The only specific thing we are looking for funding for are the cameras @ $4000 plus ongoing expenses, ie. Insurance & directors and officers who have been sued in the past. Plus website, wreaths, decorations during the holidays which are the one freebie event for the neighborhood.

Note: People donate, but forget to renew. Question is whether they need to also renew their membership. No-one opposed.

1. **Membership**

Question about membership period, it is from the time you join as opposed to a fiscal calendar.

Executive committee members must renew dues, can’t be a member of the committee if you are not. Backlog of 75 who have not renewed.

1. **Cocoanut Grove plaque - maintenance and other issues**

We need to maintain the plaque. It spent some time in storage. Needs a little love. Sarah reached out to friends of the common/public gardens and provided us w the solid, not museum quality guy. Quote for the restoration is $350, plus tax – approx. $400. Includes restoration, and a report on restoration plan going forward (which is minimal).

Probably a once every 7-8 years cleaning requirement. Discussion around the Piedmont Park developers paying the cost, but it was explained that donations by residents more than cover the cost (upwards of $1000 so far).

Chronology:

- Moved during construction

- Maintained by developer

- At the time the approval of the construction a group called Cocoanut Grove memorial association, talked about doing a larger memorial on the site, were opposed to development. We not incorporated as an association, or a non-profit

Building approved, now occupied, and agreed to put plaque back where it originally resided

- When it was put back, tour groups near it, small space, and request by the developers to move to a more open place.

- Invited the group to come back and discuss, the city reached out to have them come and engage, they declined, in fact, didn’t actually even respond. We reached out “early and often”

- The plaque is now in a spot where there is room for people to gather, under the Cocoanut Grove sign

- We had a discussion, EC voted not oppose the moving, the developer moved it, Kevin Cullen suggested we didn’t follow the process, but has since emailed to say he was wrong.

- In addition, Sarah received an email from the daughter of the forger of the plaque, which Sarah responded to, invited her to engage in a conversation, emailed again when no response, the response was “I’m on vacation” without further discussion.

Sarah opened the floor to discuss the issue: Jim commented that there’s a vase next to the plaque with flowers, some hand written notes. Where the plaque had been, this would have been impossible. This new spot allows for respectful memorializing. The plaque originally wasn’t even in front of the revolving doors before; it’s about the same distance away from the door in the other direction. Opens up the opportunity to do something in that alcove by the Revere hotel, Sarah is working on it. Steve likes the idea, too. And also – even the experts have trouble with the location of the original Cocoanut Grove, and then something about another memorial that isn’t actually in the place. Brian talked about the comments, and noted that most are about the tour groups. There are definitely groups going through there.

Floor plans with the old Cocoanut Grove superimposed over the current development show old and new placement of the plaque.

Nancy, Jo second – No opposition to funding the cleaning the plaque

1. **Safety: No update expected**
2. **Licensing. No update expected.**
3. **City Services. No update expected.**
4. **Other/New Business**

Allie motion to adjourn the meeting – Jo second; all approved.

Meeting adjourns: 7:48PM