**BVNA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 6, 2016

June Attendees: Sarah Herlihy, Alex Balukonis, Allie Fitzgerald, Ben Beck, Dana Apruzzese, Dick Judghans, Gaye Bok, Grant Simpson, Jamie Brewer, Judy Komarow, Kendra Mar, Kenzie Bok, Nancy Morrisroe, Paul Buta, Thomas Perkins, Tim Kacich, Trish Gillis, Bethany Patten, Sam Chambers (Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services), Patrick Lyons (Rep. Michlewitz’s office), Luigi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Sen. Boncore’s office), Chris Kelly (Vivra Chocolate), Bob and Page Levitt (Vivra Chocolate)

Meeting commences: 7:03PM

1. **Approval of May 2016 Minutes**

Motion to accept the May meeting minutes by Allie, seconded by Jo – vote to approve.

1. **Licensing: Vivra chocolate store, café at 215 Stuart Street**

Representatives from Vivra, a chocolate store and café, were in attendance. They are planning to open a new store next to Fleming’s on Stuart Street. Bob (owner) provided some background about the business and the planned operations. They expect the café to be open 10-6 Monday - Saturday, selling high-end chocolate and some coffee - a low-key, euro-type atmosphere. They will also be making chocolate on premises. Looking for approval from BVNA for to go ahead. They presented at the licensing meeting as well. They are aware of, and will monitor the trash.

Motion made not to oppose and seconded – vote not to oppose.

1. **Update on request to move Cocoanut Grove memorial**

Update: We voted in favor in last time. We reached out to Sam Chambers of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services to make sure we were sensitive to the Coconut Grove Memorial Association. Coconut Grove Memorial Association did not respond to our requests to discuss this issue. Sam urged them to respond and still nothing. One other individual raised an issue but also did not respond. City said the plaque can be, and will be moved once permitting is arranged..

We can discuss if we should do something for the 75th anniversary. We made every effort to engage every constituency.

Question: will the city do the brickwork? The owners of Piedmont Park will do all the work.

1. **Planning: Back Bay Station CAC; 141 Arlington request for relief (old antiques store being converted to condo)**

**141 Arlington**

Plans were circulated for review. Ben and Kenzie talked about it.

In the planning meeting met Jerry DiPierro (owner) nd his architect. Was a commercial condo previously and looking to change to residential. Have gutted full interior. Planning a two bedroom in the space.

The impact for us is the entryway. If they are going to keep the awning it just needs to be updated or refreshed. It goes more w/ commercial and sign, and the lighting. Took into consideration and sent a layout of front façade and structure without the awning and vanity. Will keep it as if it’s a storefront convert from commercial to residential, respectfully keeping the architecture.

Should be pretty straightforward. Good because other calls for the space if commercial were going to be a little tacky – like a juice store. The developer is looking for a little relief. But within what we normally allow.

Question: Are we going to check that the mullions will stay? Usually if they do it, they introduce after the glass is updated.

Are we actively advising him to get rid of the canopy? He’s chosen to ask our advice. But, he doesn’t need to. Probably more important what the Historic association thinks.

Motion to not oppose the requested zoning relief – Nancy, second, Tom – vote not to oppose.

**Back Bay**

5 potential things going on in the project.

1) Prop signed a deal to renovate the station and manage for a couple of years, and put $$ to redo the ventilation system. Redo the bathrooms,

2) Big project – entire parcel from station and over to plaza w bus turnaround and the garage has 4 air rights parcels, and if you divide into quarters. Above the station, 1-2 levels of retail over the station, not main hall/sides, up for conversation.

Questions – will it still allow light, people to circulate, and site?

Over where Wainwright Bank – is where the big iconic glass will be, office bldg.

Other corner of garage = residential tower,

Bus turnaround = another residential tower, but bottom levels will be a very clearly marked entry to the station, and will bring the staion dynamic forward to the street and above is residential, w/ particular footprint because base in on the station.

It is a peculiar project because none is on terra firma

All plans are up in the air, one or all 4 could be built. Zoning is being done for the whole thing.

Big thing – lots of moving pieces

MassDOT considering moving that mass pike on ramp. Question: If you get rid of it, it affects entries to the garage. The garage space is not disappearing. Not taking away or adding parking. There are traffic questions.

Qu – how can they not add parking if 40 Trinity is also going in?

Concerns: public vs private space in residential spaces. Adding an entrance to station off Stuart street. From Copley Square.

We might be concerned about the entrance from Clerendon St, like we are walking in the back entrance. They are thinking about an orange line entry from there (head house).

Next CAC meeting is 6/15 at 40 Trinity Hotel.

This will be the 3rd or 4th walking tour. Shortly after that on the 17th is an initial public review process. They did a simplified public comment process. Due on the 17th. In response to that the BRA will issue a scoping, and then the extended answer. And then another public comment period that they expect to go on for a while. The questions that come in on the 17th will set the scope.

She will write an extended letter on behalf of BVNA.

Affordable housing – push for onsite

Cars? Parking?

If they close the onramp, then more traffic over to Arlington, which may be onto our neighborhood. Or Dartmouth.

Concerns about the Amtrak waiting area and the trade off of space to retail.

How high compared to the Clarendon? One at corner of Stuart and Clarendon is shorter, the other will be shorter.

Where will the buses go? In order to exercise the air rights, the 39 bus. MUST have an agreement w the MBTA. Unclear that anyone has any ideas.

All three don’t add more than 2 hrs of share per annum to Copley. The iconic stacked building is partly wind breaking.

1. **Parks and Public Spaces: Update on annual Friends meeting; update on pruning and ongoing activities**

Grant updated. Talks about 6/22 9:30 am Eliot park will be dedicated and opened; Mayor will come. Talked about barrels. Uneventful. Last agenda item was the merger. Update is that there is a law firm who are doing probono, they’ve given advice. Bill and Sarah meeting on Friday. Some concern is what happens to the $$. It’s set aside for the friends. There are restrictions. Will need a mechanism to restrict that money, but can’t be further restricted to items. Can’t be earmarked for a certain project or garden according to the attorney general rules. Will need to have another meeting w the friends to discuss further.

TREE TRIMMING: City arborist has deep pockets, so if you want trimming…members are a little worried about the no parking from 6-10th, but looks like they’ll get taken down earlier. City trees need to be trimmed every 6-10 years to stay healthy.

1. **Social/Fundraising: Update on fundraiser; camera fundraising**

Alex & Allie - Safety & Social are a bit of a merge issue – fundraising for both. We offered $1000 to prime the pump on the fundraiser. Looking into MJ O’Connors, and Davios. Next meeting date will be set in stone for fundraiser & block party. Anything to donate – supporting gifts (hotel rooms, experiences, choc making classes, etc…)

1. **Safety: Meeting re-cap; neighborhood watch**

Kendra and Judy – subtle crime including needles and

Target $4000 – looking for $$, on the website.

1. Lights on for safety,
2. Cameras

8 arrests, breaking w a large amount of jewelry.

11A has an outstanding court case.

11C had a drug unit and a bust. Arrests. Owner is trying to get those folks out for non-payment of rent.

Homeless situation going on in Our Ladies of Victories. Police can’t kick out the homeless.

Priests are addressing it. There are no “no trespassing” signs so police cant currently go in. But, people are dealing. Tarps is down.

3am notice breaking down parties from park plaza parties.

1. **Other/New Business**

Nancy Morrisroe made motion to adjourn the meeting – Allie Fitzgerald second; all approved.

Meeting adjourns: 8:06PM