**BVNA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

September 12, 2016

**Present:** Sarah Herlihy, Trish Gillis, Kenzie Bok, Don Albanese, Jamie Brewer, Mark Bocash, Ben Moll, Dan Moll, Kendra Mar, Rocque Dion, Beth Trefferson (Back Bay Sun), Jo Campbell, Dana Apruzzese, Paul Buta, Matt Conway, Grant Simpson, Deb Farrar-Parkman (SE Community Health), Rob Lashway, Tim Kacich, Earl Winthrop, Michael Winston, Aoife Austin, Ben Beck, Nancy Morrisroe, Clyde Bergstresser, Judy Komarow, Marcelo Almeida, Diane Rooney, Leslie Colburn, Jo Campbell, Dan Levy, Tom Paris, Eric Cordes, David Gural, Lora Shea, Sam Chambers (Mayor’s ONS)

Meeting commences: 7:01PM

**Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July EC meeting and the EC voted to approve the minutes.

**Guests:** Gregory Ruffer, the new President and CEO of the Center for the Arts (Tremont Street/South End) was introduced. He is visiting neighborhood associations as he starts his new role. After a discussion of the Center, Mr. Ruffer invited the residents to visit him at the Cyclorama and to share ideas for programming.

**Planning:**

*108-110 Arlington****:*** Ron Smith from R.L. Smith Construction Management (93 Willow Street, Tewksbury, MA) attended the meeting to discuss the project.

In the past, the neighbors have had several meetings with ISD to express concern regarding the length of the project and disruptions. Currently Sarah posts weekly updates of upcoming work every Friday.

The developer stated that they were building the permitted 19-unit boutique hotel and the plan is for it to be sold by the current owner. Developer did acknowledge that other uses were being considered. Complete by early March, 2017. Expect one more road interruption for utilities. No current plan to include a roof deck at this time. No parking in the plan for hotel – if single family home, there is a garage. First floor will be retail. Early to mid-October is turning point for decision of space use.

Clyde Bergstresser requested parking information for future plans of the building – no plans to do street parking in neighborhood. Clyde also asked about exterior work and window replacement – Ron said both have been completed during construction delay. Sarah said the initial intention was to close the parking garage and neighborhood would gain two spaces. Went through process with historic.

Michael Winston requested clean-up of the neighbors’ rear space of debris/dust. Needs to be coordinated – Ron said there will be a clean-up at the conclusion of the project. Earl Winthrop expressed appreciation that Ron visited the BVNA meeting. Lora Shea asked about the parking permit signs. Sam requested that the developers continue to communicate with the neighborhood – please communicate through the proper channels. Sarah suggested that they join NextDoor and post their own updates.

*Back Bay Station:* Kenzie provided and update and overview of the project. Currently waiting for the BRA to release scoping determination to developer – once returned, October/November will be important time period. Renovation of the Back Bay train station is not part of CAC – but occurring at the same time by Boston Properties – Kenzie to send information about an upcoming public meeting with the MBTA about the renovation … important for neighbors to attend.

*11A Melrose:* Overview – owner has a permit to do clean-up work. Still condemned / not to be inhabited. Call 911 if it appears people are living in it. ISD is working on next steps.

**Parks/Public Spaces:** Update on potential merger, September 19, 2016 Friends Meeting – will be voted in this meeting to merge the two associations. Sarah brought proxy to BVNA Executive Meeting for members who cannot be at the September 19 meeting. Expense related to irrigation maintenance contract at Eliot Norton Park – annual expense committed to the City.

**Licensing:** Clyde Bergstresser reported on a meeting he attended with Gaye, Sarah and the owner and manager of Liquid Art House. There is new management and a new chef (since last winter); they will do more marketing around a new menu. Talk to the manager about future parties for BVNA. Discussed entertainment license. The restaurant is going to want outdoor seating.

**Social:**

*Fundraiser:* Netted $6,600 – above expectations and a big success particularly given short notice, the need to pay for space and the timing (in August)

*Block Party:* Allie and Alex are working on the licensing … then notice will go out. $35 for members … $45 non-members (increases $10 the day of); Bon Me food truck – need help setting up. Tim to look into pricing – confirm the break even point. Sarah to follow-up. Lora requested City-to-Go truck, which is being worked on. An email vote after the meeting was held and the EC agreed to reduce prices for members by $5.00.

**Treasurer:** Tim provided an update, including that the BVNA was back on course after the fundraiser.

**Membership:** We have exceeded 190 members and membership is confirming that everyone on BVNA is current. Michael asked for feedback on the technology in the fundraiser (processing donations/bid items by credit card) and the response was positive.

**Safety:** Judy provided an update on crime statistics, including another uptick in car break-ins. Marcelo agreed to investigate whether the BVNA could start buying cameras even though it did not have $4,000 yet.

**Misc.**

*Plaque***:** We spent $\_\_\_\_ on the restoration of the Cocoanut Grove plaque. While it looks better, about $500 is needed to complete the work. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the expenditure of these funds. The EC voted in support of the motion.

Sarah reported that we are working with the Historic District Commission to confirm that there will be no issue with the current location of the plaque.

**City Services:** No update expected.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** The EC voted to adjourn.