

JP Business & Professional Association
Board Meeting
May 22, 2019

BAPA Board Members Present: Melvin Tutiven, Mary Wallace Collins, David Elliott, Michael Reiskind, Brad Brown, Jeffrey Ferris, Eric Johnson, Ken Sazama, Lashawnda Thorpe, and Sandee Storey.

Also Present: Diane Spears, Ginger Brown, Jason Katz, Rhea Becker, Dale Cumberbatch, Adele Traub, Monroe Heyman, Mary Celeste Brown, Patrick S. Macnab, Helen Russell (Apprentice Learning), Hannah Wilson (Apprentice Learning), Will Poff-Webster (Office of City Councillor Matt O'Malley), Enrique Pepen (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services).

Meeting was called to order at 12:34pm by Melvin Tutiven at Tikki Masala.

Introductions were made around the room.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in all three BAPA accounts is about \$10,260. There is about \$2,240 in the operating account, about \$7,005 in the holiday decorations account, and about \$1,034 in the JP Shines account.

News on the Street:

- Sweet Rice opened on May 14 at 697 Centre Street (the former Wonder Spice Café location).
- Boston Fetch has opened at 478 Centre Street (the former Vasquez Insurance location).
- The Joint has opened at 605 Centre Street (the former Grass Fed location).
- There was a question about what might move into the empty site at 701 Centre Street formerly occupied by Bukhara Restaurant. There are unconfirmed rumors of a café or a Chase banking office.
- Brad Brown said that there has been a recent outbreak of new graffiti done by etching the glass in storefronts.
- Ginger Brown said that there were two break-ins on the street overnight on Saturday night/Sunday morning, May 11-12 at 3:38am. They were at When Pigs Fly, 613 Centre Street and J.C. Fruit Shop & More at 606 Centre Street. There was thought about installing grates, but Ms. Brown said that there is break-resistant glass or film for glass available. There is also a graffiti-resistant and etch-resistant film available.
- The GoFundMe campaign by Tree of Life/Arbol De Vida that was announced at the last BAPA meeting was successful in reaching its goal of \$6,000. It will benefit this year's JP Police Summer Camp.
- Ginger Brown said that JP Centre/South Main Streets will have a summer fundraiser BBQ - with Blue Frog catering - at the First Baptist Church on Friday, May 31.
- The annual Wednesday night Hot Dog nights at Mildred C. Hailey Apartments will be happening again this year. They will be starting June 12 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at 42 Horan Way. State Rep. Nika Elugardo and City Councillor Matt O'Malley will be co-sponsoring.
- To celebrate the Footlight Club's opening night of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the Loring Greenough House is hosting a garden party on its south lawn. Enjoy refreshments while you play croquet, then stroll over to the theater to watch the play. The garden party will be on Saturday, June 1 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

Review of April 17, 2019 Board Meeting minutes: Motion by Mary Wallace Collins to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Sandee Storey. Passed 9-0-0 (1 came late).

BAPA Issue:

- Apprentice Learning: Hannah Wilson, director of external affairs at Apprentice Learning, explained that Apprentice Learning is a program that allows students to explore careers by being provided with apprenticeships at local businesses. Three local schools that have the program are the Mission Hill School, the Boston Teachers Union School and the Rafael Hernandez School. Helen Russell, executive director at Apprentice Learning, then continued and said that twenty local businesses have participated and helped 140 students. The program started in 2012 and starts with eighth graders who are starting to think about jobs. Mission Hill School was the first involved, linking up with Fresh Hair and Ferris Wheels. This year, the program has 25 students in JP businesses. Apprentice Learning teaches students how to introduce themselves and how to speak in groups - an elevator speech. The course is six weeks long and students go out to a business once a week for two hours. They do inventory or clerking. It is done as part of the school day and the student receives some credit on their transcript, as well as reference letters. The businesses find that this program can help with the present tight workforce issue. It really helps students improve their job skills. Other JP businesses that have participated are City Feed and Supply, Polka Dog Bakery, and Boing! JP's Toy Shop. Ms. Russell is looking for corporate support for the program. They are adding a new school - the Dearborn STEM Academy, and will expand into charter schools next. Apprentice Learning is located in the Fowler Real Estate building, has four staff and a \$450,000 annual budget. They

assist businesses with deciding what the students can do for only two hours. It is highly supervised work for the students balanced with a new independence. Sandee Storey spoke about hosting high school students in the past and how they always remember the boss at their first job.

Questions from members: Is the program conducted just during the school year? Yes, in the summer they have a different program. In the past, 40-50% of Learning Apprentice graduates who are available for summer jobs have received summer jobs. Summer jobs keep students safe and offer additional valuable experience. During the school year, do the students get paid? No, they only get experience and school credit. They do get help in finding summer paying jobs. When does the program happen? It takes place in the last two hours of the school day, usually 12noon to 3:00pm. All students from the same school go out on the same day.

Committee Reports:

- JP Shines: JP BAPA and JP Centre/South Main Streets had a successful clean-up and flower-planting at the South Street Mall on Saturday, April 27. Volunteers have pledged to keep up a regular schedule of maintenance for the flower beds throughout the summer. Jeffrey Ferris was out doing street tree pruning during the annual Love Your Block Clean-Up on Saturday, May 4. He asked for volunteers to help him on future pruning mornings.

- Transit, Traffic & Parking Committee (TTP): Restriping of crosswalks and bicycle lanes in the district is being done this month. The JP South Hyde Jackson Projects (Centre/South Streetscape & Transportation Action Plan) was funded for Fiscal Year 2020 for \$750,000. This is for the design from Hyde Square to Forest Hills. Ginger Brown said that the City of Boston is planning on putting in two parklets and one is on Green Street in front of Papercuts JP and The Blue Frog Bakery. It will occupy two parking spaces. Nearby businesses were polled and 70% were in favor of the parklet because it will liven up Green Street. It is in final design now and then will go to permitting, will be built over the summer, and installed in late summer or fall of this year. Jason Katz said that there is a 100-person petition being passed about the parking problem at Achilitos Taqueria on Hyde Park Avenue and Weld Hill Street. There is also a big problem with parking in Forest Hills. The former Harvest parking lot is being used by commuters and will be harder to regain for business parking. Jeffrey Ferris commented that parking spots in the business district need to turn over a lot more for retail business health.

- Membership Committee: As of today, there are 65 paid members. Mary Wallace Collins reminded folks that the dues support all activities of the organization.

- Web Page Committee: Sandee Storey said that the BAPA Facebook page is doing well; the page is up to 300 likes.

There were three raffle drawings for door prizes for the Business of the Month. The first was for a \$50.00 gift certificate for Tikki Masala at 3706 Washington Street. It was won by Eric Johnson. The second was for a \$50.00 gift certificate for Tikki Masala. It was won by Diane Spears. The third was for a \$100.00 gift certificate for Tikki Masala. It was won by Ginger Brown.

Old/New Business:

- Jason Katz encouraged businesses to connect with JP Open Studios and host artists. Forest Hills needs more artist locations to get on the map for September 2019. The deadline is in one week. Open Studios is a good promotion for the business community. Adele Traub from JP Licks offered to share their list of artists. Patrick Macnab passed around his portfolio.

- Jeffrey Ferris offered to brainstorm new bicycle uses for businesses.

- Enrique Pepen said that the City of Boston is hoping to reopen a bridge link to Long Island and they need support letters to present to the City of Quincy. Jeffrey Ferris asked if the Quincy neighborhood along the bridge route is low-lying and prone to flooding.

- Monroe Heyman wondered if BAPA wanted to start a "green" committee to work on environmental issues. Mary Wallace Collins and Ken Sazama volunteered to work with Monroe Heyman. Will Poff-Webster offered Councillor Matt O'Malley's assistance because he chairs the Boston City Council's Environment & Sustainability Committee. Councillor O'Malley has been working on environmental issues for residential buildings and would like to expand to commercial buildings. Motion by Jeffrey Ferris to start a BAPA Green Committee. Seconded by Sandee Storey. Passed 10-0-0. The Committee will be chaired by Ken Sazama and Monroe Heyman.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

The next BAPA Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 19, 2019