

JP Business & Professional Association
Board Meeting
April 17, 2019

BAPA Board Members Present: Melvin Tutiven, Mary Wallace Collins, David Elliott, Michael Reiskind, Lucas Gravely, Justin Iantosca, Eric Johnson, Lashawnda Thorpe, and Sandee Storey.

Also Present: Carol Palmer Brilliant, Andrew Brilliant, Ginger Brown, Rosemary Jones, Robert Franklin, Rhea Becker, Dale Cumberbatch, Joy Silverstein, Dan Valachovic, Monroe Heyman, Jamie Cholaki, Antonette Ramsay (Boston Police District E-13), Derryl Irion (Tree of Life), Will Poff-Webster (Office of City Councillor Matt O'Malley), Matt O'Malley (District 6 City Councillor), Enrique Pepen (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services).

Meeting was called to order at 12:33pm by Melvin Tutiven at Vee Vee.

Introductions were made around the room.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in all three BAPA accounts is about \$10,260. There is about \$2,245 in the operating account, about \$7,000 in the holiday decorations account, and about \$1,034 in the JP Shines account.

News on the Street:

- Ginger Brown said that there will be a community clean-up in our area on Saturday, April 27 starting at 9:00am at the South Street Mall (tennis courts at South Street and Carolina Avenue). Volunteers will do plantings and clean up at the South Street Mall and then adjourn to J-Pizle for brunch.
- The official community clean-up in Jamaica Plain, Love Your Block, will be on Saturday, May 4.
- JP Centre/South Main Streets will be sponsoring a trolley shuttle for Lilac Sunday on May 12, as well as two more community events this summer (JP Porchfest and Open Studios). There has been a grant awarded for the shuttle, but JP Centre/South Main Streets is looking for sponsors for the banners and advertising materials.
- Ginger Brown said that JP Centre/South Main Streets will have a summer fundraiser BBQ at the First Baptist Church on June 1 (subsequently moved to Friday, May 31).
- There will be a JP Green Living Tour, a self-guided walking tour sponsored by Mothers Out Front, on Sunday, May 19 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.
- The next Jamaica Plain Forum will be a town hall discussion about the Green New Deal. It will be on Saturday, April 20 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at the First Church, 6 Eliot Street, with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Rev. Mariama White-Hammond leading the discussion.
- There was a planning meeting about a proposed parklet between 3 and 5 Green Street. It took place on April 10.
- 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.

Review of March 20, 2019 Board Meeting minutes: Motion by Mary Wallace Collins to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting. Seconded by David Elliott. Passed 9-0-0.

BAPA Issues:

- JP Police Summer Camp: Officer Antonette Ramsay, juvenile officer in the Boston Police Department (BPD) Jamaica Plain District E-13, said that she is a 20-year officer in the BPD. She has been working on Community Policing trying to build trust and relationships with the people BPD serves. In the past, they have run a Junior Police Academy - but only for one week at a time. They need more time to protect kids at risk during the summer. Last year a summer camp was tried with the help of Tree of Life. It helped fifteen youths, mainly by keeping them active and engaging them with police and other local activities. The focus is on Jamaica Plain kids (10-13 years old) and students who go to JP schools. This year, they hope to provide a three-week camp. They will meet in the morning at the District E-13 station (Green and Washington Street) and breakfast and lunch are provided. They engage in health and fitness activities. Even a trip to Boston Common is a big deal for these kids. The main goal is to keep the kids safe during the summer.
- Tree of Life GoFundMe: Derryl Irion, a Jamaica Plain resident who works with Tree of Life, said that Tree of Life is very excited about this program and is trying to raise \$6,000 this year to provide a JP Police Summer Camp for 30 kids. They have started a GoFundMe campaign. All money will go to Tree of Life and they pledge to donate all proceeds to the JP Police Summer Camp. Dale Cumberbatch asked about the fitness program, since he is a local fitness trainer. Motion by Eric Johnson that BAPA donate \$200.00 to the Tree of Life GoFundMe campaign. Seconded by Mary Wallace Collins. Passed 9-0-0.
- City Councillor Matt O'Malley: City Councillor Matt O'Malley, who represents District 6, started by mentioning three

events coming up: a) The annual stocking of Jamaica Pond with trout will be on Thursday, April 28. b) The 197th anniversary of the birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted will be on the evening of Thursday, April 28 at the First Church of Jamaica Plain (at The Monument). c) There will be an event honoring Maura Healey at Taylor House Bed & Breakfast on Wednesday, May 8.

Councillor O'Malley has been on the Boston City Council since 2010 and is about to become the dean of the Council (longest serving current member). He said he is excited to see all the new vibrant, young, and affective leaders on the Council. He chairs the Committee on Environment and Sustainability. Past activities have been 1) Plastic Bag Ordinance: BAPA was the first business group to endorse the proposed ordinance which was passed unanimously by the City Council in 2017 and went into effect in December 2018. 2) Community Choice Energy (CCE): This started on Cape Cod. It is the bulk purchase of energy to allow for more renewable energy into the mix at the same or lower cost. Boston has only 11%-13% renewable energy in their mix, which is low for the state. 3) Net Zero Carbon for new construction: This entails buildings going to electric heat. There have been some successes. A new building in West Roxbury on VFW Parkway will be all-electric. The tipping fee (price to dump garbage) is now \$90/ton, while the recycling tipping fee is only \$25/ton. The future contract might go as high as \$70/ton for recyclables, so we have to figure out something soon. Net Zero carbon and diverting the compostables out of the waste stream are two solutions. 4) Councillor O'Malley is working on a safer streets campaign in Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury. 5) Vacant stores: how can we encourage landlords to not keep places vacant for long periods of time. We can improve the permitting process and use a vacancy fee to discourage long vacancies. Lexington has a \$40.00 vacancy fee which has been effective. 6) Mildred Hailey Apartments: Councillor O'Malley will be taking over managing the Hot Dog Nights on Wednesdays. Hamburgers will be added, and he encouraged all JP residents to come out on Wednesdays and come together as a neighborhood. 7) Jamaica Pond is getting \$4.77Million for pathways improvements. Construction has started in the Pinebank/Perkins Street area and along the bikeway. Completion will be by the fall of 2019. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has done their changes at Parkman and Perkins. 8) Micro-Mobility: Electric scooters are allowed in Brookline, and Boston is working on pilot regulations for the City. These will be good for certain neighborhoods that are "transit deserts". Also Blue Bikes will be going over to electric assist. How to manage pick up and drop off areas is key. The electric scooters in Brookline are geo-fenced so they stop working at the Boston border and contractors pick them up.

Questions from members: Rhea Becker asked what can be done to encourage independent businesses in JP. Can the City use monetary incentives? Eric Johnson asked about free public transportation. It would decrease congestion by encouraging ridership. There was a question on AirBnB enforcement. The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) will be adding personnel to enforce. Will Poff-Webster said all AirBnBs must register with the City. Rosemary Jones asked about the Resident Parking Program (RPP). How can we implement it on Bynner Street where construction workers take up a lot of parking spaces? Justin Iantosca asked what needs to be done so that Plan.JP/Rox can move forward. Councillor O'Malley thinks it is a good plan and he will work on codifying the guidelines into the zoning regulations.

Committee Reports:

- JP Shines: JP BAPA and JP Centre/South Main Streets will be having their clean-up on Saturday, April 27. The annual Love Your Block Clean-Up will be on Saturday, May 4.

- Transit, Traffic & Parking Committee (TTP): A parklet meeting was held last Wednesday, April 10. A parklet is being planned for Green Street in front of Papercuts JP (5 Green Street) and The Blue Frog Bakery (3 Green Street). It is being designed now and will be built over the summer for installation in late summer or fall of this year.

- Membership Committee: Mary Wallace Collins reported that, with Monroe Hyman joining today, there are 61 paid members. Sandee Storey will get a 50% discount for bringing in a new member.

- Web Page Committee: David Elliott said that all unpaid members from last year are being removed from the BAPA web page.

There were three raffle drawings for door prizes for the Business of the Month. The first was for a \$50.00 gift certificate for Boing! JP's Toy Shop at 667 Centre Street. It was won by David Elliott. The second was for a \$50.00 gift certificate for Boing! It was won by Rhea Becker. The third was for a \$100.00 gift certificate for Boing! It was won by Joy Silverstein.

Old/New Business: Bob Franklin asked whether he could get some help to remove and upgrade the chain link fence that runs at the back of his property along the Bank of America parking lot. The fence is owned by Bank of America. Rosemary Jones said that the Jamaica Pond Association was successful in improving the Bank of America fencing along Burroughs Street and she will try to help.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:31pm.

The next BAPA Board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2019