

Minutes of the Meeting of the Friends of Bay Village Parks/ Friends of Elliot Norton Park

August 27th, 2012 at the Home of President Bill Nigreen

Attending were: Bill Nigreen, Daniel Krulewitch, Barbara Warren, China Altman, Tom Kauycheck, Domenic Mastrololano, Brian Boisvert, Sarah Herlihy, Marcia Wetherbee, Mary Teeven, Leslie Colburn, June McCourt, Francine Pilgrim, Jo Campbell, Kathleen McDermott, and Rocque Dion.

President Bill Nigreen opened the meeting at 7:12 PM. The minutes of the July 28th 2012 minutes were approved with a motion by Jo Campbell and seconded by Daniel Krulewitch.

The President reviewed the evaluation (Plus/Delta) from the end of the previous meeting. People said the meeting was very productive but had too many agenda items and felt rushed. Bill said he would slow down the pace today.

Treasurer's report from Daniel Krulewitch. \$50.00 in new dues was credited to the bank account. Bill gave a nod of approval to Dick Junghans for his frugal use of the Friends \$ during his tenure as president.

A question was raised as to whether it is members or directors who vote on the approval of the minutes. The answer is that everyone votes but it is only directors who have authority for official acts of the corporation. In cases where there is less than unanimity, directors will be polled. Meanwhile, directors are asked to be attuned to the wishes of the broader membership.

Membership report was tabled until the next meeting because Aoife Austin was not present. Mary Teeven suggested that the membership should think about manning a table at the BVNA block party on September 13th 2012. Daniel Krulewitch offered to be the point person, checking with Sarah Herlihy and Nan Rubin, co-chairs of the block party. Leslie Colburn and Jo Campbell also volunteered to help. Aoife Austin is away but she will help too. Not only is the block party an excellent way to get new members but as we walk around the neighborhood we should let people know about the Friends.

Garden Improvements Bill thanked Tom Kauycheck and Domenic for recent improvements to the Elliot Norton Park. They did some major trimming of trees and bushes. Looks great.

Leslie Colburn reported about the dog park. Leslie and Marcia Wetherbee were asked by the management of the Milner Hotel to neaten up the dog park. They approached Blue Man Group, who rents the property from the BRA, and Blue Man hired a landscaper to prune the trees and haul away the debris. Everyone seemed to be positive about the cleanup and the changes made. Leslie and Marcia were commended for a job well done and for showing how when people work together things get done. Daniel Krulewitch suggested that we get Blue Man Group and managers of Milner Hotel more involved with Friends of Parks and everyone agreed it was a good idea to continue to build cooperation.

The next item that was a proposed Parklet in Bay Village. Originally Ken Ham followed up on an article in the Boston Globe that said the City of Boston was interested in building several of these Parklets around the city. Ken approached Mike & Patty's as well as representatives from the City of Boston Transportation Department. The City of Boston would pay the total cost of building the Parklet, about \$10,000 to \$14,000. The idea was discussed by the Bay Village Neighborhood Association at its recent meeting. On the plus side is more public space, less people eating on curbs and stoops, and helping a local business. On the negative side were, less parking, the possibility of litter, noise and safety issues. A proposal was made and unanimously passed that we pursue with the city the idea of a pilot that is "safe, clean, and orderly." Bill Nigreen will be point person and Barry Doyle, Ian Johnson, Matt Krepps, and Daniel Krulewitch will be kept in the loop.

President Bill Nigreen asked that members who want to propose initiatives for the Friend of Parks use the following format.

Proposal Format - SAMPLE

Name of Project: Elliot Norton Park Improvement

Purpose/Vision: a world-class urban park

Leader: Bill Nigreen

Benefits

- Recognized significance; interprets space
- It's beautiful! Contains a fascinating public artwork
- Encourages appropriate use by all kinds of people

Costs

- ~ \$1 million to City
- needs fundraising by FENP

Plan (Who will do What by When)

1. BN works with City Project Manager on Planning session this fall
2. Re-construction of Tot Lot in FY 2014

Discussion of how we can improve the behavior of people using Elliot Norton Park. Marcia Wetherbee thinks that we need to go to the YMCA and Day Care Centers to educate them on how to use the park: noise levels, trash and hours it should be used. China Altman shared how she deals with people in the Boston Public Garden. She approaches with a friendly conversation ("have a nice day") and then makes her point, ("please do not feed the ducks"). Tom Kauycheck says that often in the late afternoon groups of teenagers hang out there; often there are homeless people, and on Weekends you have young people using it as a gym. Daniel Krulewitch mentioned that he works very closely with Suzanne Lee from Chinatown and he could be the point man between her and the Friends since many residents of Chinatown use the park. We also need to talk to the managers of the abutting clubs as patrons waiting to enter the club are hanging around the park, destroying the fence and littering. And we need to keep our eyes out for drug deals. Bill Nigreen reiterated "If you see something say something." Remember too that there is a blue Police Phone in the Park that will connect you directly with 911.

Evaluation: To end the meeting Bill asked for pros and cons.

Plus (What went well today)	Delta (What could be improved in the future?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congratulations for work done!• Good beer and iconic refreshments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We don't need to meet every month

It was discussed and decided that a September meeting would not be necessary.

Next Meeting: October 29, 2012 at 7 Fayette Street

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Rocque Dion, Clerk