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BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

**BVNA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

February 5, 2018

**EC Present:** Bethany Patten, Grant Simpson, Sarah Herlihy, Tim Kacich, Trish Gillis, Julie Reynolds, Aoife Austin, Danny Moll, Tom Parsi, Ben Beck, Allie Fitzgerald, Alex Balukonis, Nancy Morrisroe.

**Other:** Faisa Sharif (ONS), Beth Treffeisen (Boston Sun), Steve Dunnewell, Don Albanese, Paul Buta, Benjie Moll.

**Start:** The meeting commenced at 7:05 PM

**Community Rel.:** A representative from the new Lynx Gym at the Park Plaza hotel (Opened Jan 1, 2018) presented. Gym includes golf swing suite; equipment; classes. They are capping membership at 1,200 - new offer to residents includes \$0 initiation, 10% off monthly dues; referral bonus available of \$100; residents can request a day pass. Hours are 5:30AM-10PM weekdays (close at 7PM on weekends); hotel guests have access to the membership floor.

**City Councilor At-Large Annissa Essaibi George** presented. Announced Chief of Staff, Alana Olsen, is taking a leave of absence. Jessica Rodriquez (new to Bay Village, but not new to Annissa) will be our liaison. The is Councilor discussed the details of her two committee chair agendas: Homelessness, Mental Health and Recovery and Education. Reported a focus on family homelessness and that 7% of student population experiences homelessness; opioid crisis and needle pick-up due to significant growth in this problem; and where BPS is with their transportation budget. Nancy Morrisroe asked about Councilor Essaibi George's view on short-term rentals. She supports but has questions about the 90-day limitation (considering different kinds of housing, including students).

**City Councilor At-Large Ed Flynn** presented his priorities as new City Councilor representing Bay Village including: Ensuring there are affordable housing opportunities in the city and quality of living issues (Councilor Flynn recently met with Captain Fong and aware of the concern about the night clubs). He will add office hours soon, including in the Bay Village area. Nancy Morrisroe asked about Councilor Flynn's view on short-term rentals. 70% are investor-owned; Ed toured Chinatown recently to learn more about people being displaced for corporations basically running hotels. Nancy said ADCO is proposing removing the investor category - they should be following regulations. Councilor Flynn offered his cell phone: 617-820-8571

Additional city services concerns were raised by neighbors including the crosswalk in Bay Village at Arlington Street (Councilor Essaibi George made it a focus)

**City Services:** Nancy Morissroe reported on a number of ongoing projects:

Isabella Street reversal – Still in process with the city, looking at a wide range of options to make the crosswalk safer - more than just restricting.

Big Belly Trash Receptacle on Isabella St – Still in process with the city. Suggestions for location included Arlington and Isabella by the bus stop; Jim McCormick is cleaning the street once a week and tossing the trash - need a place to toss the trash; Councilor Essaibi George suggested working with the DPW to pick up. Neighbors emphasized that regardless, but we still need the Big Belly back.

Rats - Nancy collected names of people dealing with the issues – and confirmed she will do a walk-through with the city.

Trash – There is an increase in improper disposal – neighbors discussed the need to create awareness for the neighborhood, flyers were distributed; suggestions for presentation from the City about recycling & regulations in the future.

Spring Clean-Up: May 5th with fundraiser that same weekend.

**Safety:** Danny Moll reported that crime in the area is down 1% year on year. Recent police activity: Car break-ins - stabbing connected to a night club; issues at Cortes

Graffiti Removal - a few hot spots in Bay Village being addresses with Graffiti Busters - getting worse in the neighborhood, slow to respond; Sarah Herlihy to assist

**Planning:** Motor Mart: Bethany updated on the presentation from Motor Mart Developers at the Licensing & Planning meeting: Presentation last week (available); IAG is not formed yet; they meeting with the developers was a head's up - don't need anything yet; 278' currently proposed - considering wind (have not done a wind study yet); architecture considered of the old building; Legal Seafood will remain, other restaurants are affected; will continue to discuss the concerns the neighborhood might have.

212 Stuart St: Sarah updated on status of litigation - No change, complaint has been filed; raised question of whether the neighborhood voice their views on the development? Discussion included multiple viewpoints including: Do we want to start a precedent of getting involved in legal issues between abutters? What is our role as a neighborhood? Do we communicate to the city that it is a project that should go forward and reiterate the position of the neighborhood? No decision was made. City Councilor Essaibi George suggested looping back to the original BPDA liaison to ask for insight.

**ADCO:** Nancy Morrisroe presented the work of ADCO in researching the effect of short term rentals (airBNB, etc) on city. 3 levels - missing multi-unit ownership. 70% of short-term rentals controlled this way. All zoning is being by-passed. Hearing next week to remove the investor level to receive the new regulations.

She presented the ADCO recommendations for the city,

**Vote:** Nancy Morrisroe asked for a motion to disallow investor levels for the existing proposal on the table; Sara Herlihy so moves, Allie Fitzgerald seconds. All in favor, Tom Parsi and Benjie Moll abstain.

**Other:** Bethany reported that the Friends of the Public Garden are concerned with lighted digital signage at the Arlington St. MBTA station stops. Concerns over light pollution and historical preservation. Looking for neighborhood support to oppose.

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