

LONGFELLOW AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
September 8, 2014

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday September 8, 2014 at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Wayne Beitler, Linda Burnett, John Covert, Mike Fitzgerald, Janet Forrester, Julia O'Brien and Rob Orthman. Also in attendance were Paul Sullivan of Rep. Flaherty's office, Sophia Egan of Fia's Gifts and Captain Gillespie of Area E-5.

The meeting began with a call for additional items for the agenda. The agenda was approved as distributed.

The meeting continued with a presentation by Sophia Egan of Fia's Gifts, a new gift shop in the block of stores behind the pocket park. Sophia noted that she is a long-time area resident, currently residing in Readville with her husband Kevin, a police officer. They hope to relocate back to Roslindale. They own a condo on Florence Street that they currently use as a rental property.

Sophia invites everyone to come by her shop. It specializes in small gifts, cards, candy, etc. like the neighborhood gift shops of the past. Sophia also noted that she has been participating in the farmer's market and has had positive feedback.

The meeting continued with Captain Joseph Gillespie of Area E-5. The Captain indicated that statistically, Roslindale is a very safe neighborhood, but warned against being over-confident. He recommended "hardening" your homes and cars to make it more difficult for the crooks so they'll move on to easier targets. The Captain distributed a map of our area with indicators of where crime has occurred. It was reassuring to see how little crime is reported in our neighborhood.

The Captain also noted that 911 cell calls made within Boston are now directed to the Boston PSAP rather than the State Police. This should make for more efficient handling of the calls within the city.

The desire to have a traffic calming board along Walter Street was raised. The Captain noted that the police only have one of the speed limit "sleds". The type of board requested would need to come from the traffic department and we should contact our City Councilor's office to request the permanent pole-mounted board.

A concern was raised about cars running the red light at Corinth and Washington Streets in the square. Mike also noted the problem of cars running the light at South and Belgrade by the commuter rail station. The Captain indicated he would follow up for some possible enforcement activity. The issue of disturbances at Mendum and Fairview was also raised. It was reported that things seemed to have settled down more recently. Call 911 if further problems occur. The group thanked the Captain for attending and addressing the group.

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The meeting continued with committee reports. There was nothing to report from the Transportation Committee. The Green Committee reported that the pocket park was in good shape. It was reported that some LANA members helped Roslindale Clean & Green at a recent event at the Library. Sophia volunteered to water the potted plants at the pocket park.

The Zoning report noted that 43 Knoll had been approved and that it was believed that 37 Knoll was also approved. The liquor license for Silva's Market on Belgrade was also believed to be approved, to the group's disappointment. A community meeting regarding the request by 7 Star Bistro for a wine and beer license will be held Tuesday. They go before the commission on Wednesday. Julie noted a complaint from Selwyn Street residents that about the house on Farquhar Street that has the single family house in the back yard of the main house. There is some type of venting issue and the fumes are impacting the Selwyn Street residents. It was recommended that they contact Lee Blasi and/or Dave McNulty to determine a course of action.

The only update from the Friends of Fallon Field was that the interim Parks Commissioner was recently appointed to the position permanently.

The Membership & Outreach committee reported that Nextdoor.com was working very well. The following there is more than our Facebook following that has been around a lot longer. Janet noted that we should not abandon the newsletter because some people, especially seniors, are not on-line.

The Wetlands Task Force reported that their membership base is aging out and that they will probably be looking for the City to maintain the wetlands going forward with the support of corporate groups. Those groups are more successful than the student help, as the students tend to be less selective in what they cut down or pull out, sometimes destroying native plants.

The clerk reported no activity since the July meeting. The minutes of the July meeting were approved with a correction that the sign outside of Fia's gift shop MAY be challenged by the city, not that it WAS challenged as reported in the minutes.

In open discussion it was reported that Adams Park is due to re-open in early October. It was also reported that the CCTV system had been installed at Longfellow House as previously promised to the residents.

The meeting was drawn to a close with a reminder of our next meeting:

Board Meeting - Monday, November 10, 2014 at 7:30PM at Longfellow House