

LONGFELLOW AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
September 14, 2015

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday September 14, 2015 at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Wayne Beitler, John Covert, Mike Fitzgerald, Mary Flaherty, Chris Kollett, Walter Michalik, Julia O'Brien and Rob Orthman. Also in attendance were Herb Ryan, Cathy Toste and twelve other neighbors. Representatives from the city included Councilor Tim McCarthy along with Lee Blasi; Councilor Michael Flaherty along with Paul Sullivan; Lisa Coveney of Inspectional Services; Bill McGregor of Councilor O'Malley's office and Captain Gillespie of Area E5.

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

The meeting continued with comments from Councilor McCarthy. He recalled that the first meeting he attended when working for Mayor Flynn was a Longfellow PRC meeting in 1993. Tim noted that development is a big issue in the city and that he supports single family homes over large-count buildings for this area. He mentioned a concern regarding the recent shooting that occurred on Kitteridge Street.

Tim also noted that bike lanes were slated for Walter Street and also that the crosswalk across the top of Walter Street at Centre may not be up to federal standards due to being too long. Lastly, Tim noted the need for a capital plan for Roslindale Square to address sidewalks, tree pits and HP ramps. Rob noted the need for a pedestrian crossing light across Walter Street at or near Knoll Street. Mike F. stated the desire to see the city mount a public service campaign regarding drivers and crosswalks, as many drivers not only do not stop, they berate the pedestrians for having dared cross the street. After some discussion about lowering speed limits, Councilor Flaherty noted that there are many challenges regarding state permission and home rule, as the State regulates speed limits within the city.

The discussion turned toward the development issues popping up. Wayne noted that the current zoning was approved in 2008, right when the economy crashed. Now, the recovering economy is leading to a push for new housing, etc. Wayne posed the question: Is it time for changes or is the current zoning the zoning, and that's it? Councilor Flaherty noted that many neighborhoods had been re-zoned and that once you allow variances, you open up the door for more. Councilor McCarthy stated he thought variances should be used more to help growing families stay in homes rather than for high density developments where they would not be allowed.

Julia noted that the Article 80 review is not an easy process and that she was taught that variances were supposed to be for hardships. She is concerned about creeping variances and feels that the current process is appalling and quite possibly illegal. One of the attending neighbors stated he felt that zoning should be dynamic, adjusting to changing

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times. Lee disagreed, stating she thought things shouldn't be over-built. Another neighbor agreed with the first, regarding dynamic zone. Walter cautioned against giving up the character of the neighborhood just because it's a popular place to want to live.

As the hour was drawing late, Rob thanked everyone for attending and for their thoughts.

The meeting continued with a quick review of LANA business. The minutes of the July 13th minutes were approved as distributed. In Linda's absence, Mike reported the bank balance of \$1423.57 plus an additional \$100 recent donation and \$50 from Walter to catch up on dues.

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

Board Meeting - Monday, November 9, 2016 at 7:30PM at Longfellow House