

LONGFELLOW AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
January 12, 2015

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday January 12, 2015 at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Wayne Beitler (arriving late), Linda Burnett, John Covert, Mike Fitzgerald, Mary Flaherty, Christopher Kollett, Kathy McCabe and Rob Orthman. Also in attendance were Vernay of Tim McCarthy's office, Christine Galatis from Neighborhood Services, Richard Dearborn of the US Petrol station and two neighbors from Hazelmere Road.

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

The meeting continued with a presentation regarding 26 Bradfield Ave. The architect, Hezekiah Pratt recapped the events that led to the construction of the new back decks and stairway for those who did not see his presentation at the November meeting. At that meeting, it was recommended that the neighbors most impacted by the issue request betterments to the rest of the property to offset the impact.

Mr. Pratt was back to present a list of things the owner is proposing to do to the property to try to appease the neighbors. Among those are painting the new porches and stairs; repair holes in the eaves; rebuild the front porches and repair and paint the exterior by the end of 2015. Some people had a concern that if the new back porches and stairs are painted, they will just become a maintenance headache and recommended solid color stain and not paint.

The neighbor to the left of the property, who is most impacted by the new porches and stairs, seems OK with the construction as long as the owner follows through with the items listed above. The issue goes before the ZBA on Tuesday Jan 20th. The group thanked Mr. Pratt for his presentation.

The meeting continued with a presentation by Richard Dearborn, owner of the US Petro gas station next to the Seven-Eleven. Richard is petitioning the city for a zoning variance to allow for the sale of two used cars at the station. Richard explained that he has been a long time business owner who needs the additional revenue to enable him to continue doing business. He plans a low-key approach with no external signs, streamers, etc. The cars would be parked at the Knoll Street side of the lot and would probably be placed inside at night. Two neighbors from Hazelmere Street spoke in support of Richard and his plan. There were no concerns regarding the plan and the board voted to not oppose.

The meeting continued with a discussion regarding LANA's formal response policy, or lack thereof. It was noted that LANA originally did formerly respond to issue brought before the board via letter to the appropriate agency. A vote was taken to resume formal responses, motioned by Mike, seconded by Mary and approved by all present. A letter should be sent

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to the ZBA regarding 26 Bradfield Ave. It was also decided to invite Inspectional Services Commissioner William Christopher to the March meeting to discuss our concerns about the permitting process.

The meeting continued with committee reports. Kathy continued with a report from the Transportation Committee. Kathy noted that work was proceeding on the removal of the Casey overpass. The next project meeting is Jan 21st at English High. She also reported that a bike lane would be added to Walter Street. Rob noted that he spoke to the Parks commissioner regarding traffic concerns. He also noted that the city just got additional speed boards and he has reached out to Captain Gillespie to request one for Walter Street. Kathy floated the idea of lowering the speed limit to 20mph along Fallon Field and maybe add a speed table to further slow traffic for the safety of pedestrians crossing to/from the field.

The meeting continued with a report from the Green Committee. John reported everything is gray and buttoned up for the winter. Someone inquired about any city program to deal with dead street trees. There is at least one dead tree on Coniston Road.

Rob reported for the Membership & Outreach committee. Rob noted that Tim needed to step down as Chair, as his schedule does not allow him the time required. Rob is trying to get the list from last year's pot luck event from Tim. There are name, checks and cash that have never been recorded. We need to pick a date for this year's pot luck. After a brief discussion, a target date of Sunday May 3rd was chosen. Mike F. will check with Scott as to the availability of the community room.

Chris reported for the Friends of Fallon Field committee. He reported that Weston-Sampson will perform a design/build of the tot lot renovations with Cheri Ruan as the team leader. These are the people who did the Menino playground in Charlestown. Chris Cook attended a recent planning meeting and is supportive. A water feature is a hot want but may cause the loss of the sandbox. The budget is \$590,000. Street hockey and basketball court renovations will happen this spring. The tot lot renovations will begin in the fall and continue into spring 2016.

The clerk reported no activity since the September meeting. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as distributed.

The treasurer indicated the bank balance of \$1416.37 less a \$75 check written this evening to Chris Kollett for the renewal of the domain name registrations for the web site. The clerk reported no activity since the prior meeting.

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Rob noted that he was working on a redesign of the LANA web site and will have more to say at a later date

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

Board Meeting - Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:30PM at Longfellow House