

BFSNA General Meeting Minutes for 1/11/05

7:09 PM
Secretary's Report:

Meeting called to order
Minutes from 12/14/04 General Meeting accepted with a minor change. Flour desired closing time misprinted as 7pm. It should have read 9pm.

Guest Speakers:

1. Ashley McCumber, President of the United South End Settlements

- Ashley wants to attend as many neighborhood association meetings in the South End as possible. Ashley described numerous programs that USES offers as well as talked about the history of USES.
- Infant and toddlers program added to USES offerings. One half of the attendees are voucher clients and the other half are private pay.
- Ashley wants to expand the use of the Children's Art Center
- Another new program is the South End Center for Adult Education located in the Harriet Tubman House. 30% of the slots are reserved for low-income adults.
- Senior Neighborhood Program: This program was started for people who fall above the low income threshold. It is supported by the Boston Foundation. One of its' focuses is to answer the question, "What does it mean to get older in the community?"
- USES supports the Hurley Elementary School.
- Currently USES raises about \$1 million per year. Approximately \$600,000 comes from foundations, grants, etc and \$400,000 from individuals. Less than 10% of the funds raised is local.
- March 31st USES is going to have an event called Winter Heat. Tickets will be \$100. Ashley wants to go to each neighborhood association and ask them to contribute 10 Hands (\$1000 dollars)
- USES has been in existence for 114 years.
- Camp Hale costs \$370,000 to operate. 120 boys per year attend. The ages are 8-13. There are approximately 20 teens as counselors in training. At 18 they can become a counselor. Ashley would eventually like to start a camp for girls.
- BFSNA voted to match dollar for dollar any money donated by the members of BFSNA up to \$500. At the end of the meeting \$300 dollars was raised by members so BFSNA would be donating at least \$300 to USES.

2. Sean McGrath, Developer of the Penny Savings Bank

- Proposal to move Silver Line Stop currently located in front of Penny Savings Bank closer to the Blackstone School.
- Changes originated by Landmarks.
- Members noted that school buses should not be parked on Washington Street.
- The Blackstone proposed stop is nearly twice as wide as the space in front of Penny Savings Bank
- The Blackstone School is agreeable to the proposed change.
- Issue with cross walk brought up by members.
- The proposed move of the T stop will be going in front of Landmarks on February 2nd.
- Cost of the move will be absorbed by the developer.
- It was agreed by members that a vote on this issue would not take place at this time.

Announcements:

A. Bio Lab/ Bio Square

- Sherwood Hughes announced that the Bio Lab was approved by the BRA Board. On 1/12/05 Bio Lab will be going in front of the Zoning Commission.
- \$600,000 has been allocated in community benefits. It will be split between Chester Square, BFSNA, Friends of Blackstone/Franklin, and Worcester Square.
- Jane Brayton requested new nozzles on the fountain.

B. 700 Harrison Update

- Residences and abutters are concerned with additional massing and changes (4 feet of additional height along with 12 additional units)
- Mitchell Properties has proposed \$10,000 more in community benefits.

- The Brown Fund will be fixing the damage to the Franklin fence.
- BTD has agreed to work with the neighborhood regarding parking issues near the development.
- In 2005 all the dead trees are supposed to be replaced.
- RF Walsh has given the City of Boston money towards bricking the sidewalk at the Franklin Square on East Brookline Street. Randi Lathrop will ask the city for the rest of the funds.
- E-mail from Ken Maguire looking for BFSNA support in writing for landscaping all 4 corners of Cathedral Housing Project. Sherwood Hughes will provide plan to members at next meeting.
- The #8 Bus needs to be moved off East Brookline Street for 1 year and 8 months due to development.

C. Gallia Restaurant Space Update and Other Updates

- New restaurant owner will be coming to talk to BFSNA next meeting. Looking to open a more modern and informal restaurant.
- South End Food Group has requested us to move our Pine Street Inn dinner from February to July.
- \$200 was approved to go to Oxfam for Tsunami Relief Fund.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.