

General Meeting Minutes for 9/14/04

7:08

Meeting called to order

Secretary's Report: Minutes from 7/13/04 General Meeting accepted as-is

Announcements:

- BFSNA Tag Sale & Raffle Fundraiser 10/2 10 – 2 p.m. – volunteers & goods needed!
- New BFSNA website! <http://www.neighborhood02118.org> – email Sherwood for log in info

Guest Speakers:

1. *Carolyn MacNeil & Sergeant Powers – Area D-4 Boston Police*

- Announced “Community Dialogue Forum” –
 - Community discussion to address issue of violence & impact on South End/Lower Roxbury
 - Call Carolyn @ 617 343 5682 for information on participation
- Overview of July's spike in youth-related violence & Boston Police response –
 - “Neighborhood Shield”/“Modified Neighborhood Shield” – collaboration between police & social services (such as housing authorities, district attorney etc) – has been very effective!
 - “School Safety Spots” – cruisers stationed in areas where kids tend to congregate (bus stops, corner stores etc.)
 - “Walks & Talks” – designated times/places for officers to be circulating among neighbors
 - “Operation Impact” (unique to D-4) – collaboration between police & youth services to keep an eye on youth known to be “problems”
- Announced “Operation Crosswalk” and “Click It or Ticket” – to promote safety for pedestrians & riders alike; see D4BPD.com for schedule & locations of monitoring efforts
- Discussion of homelessness issues – budget cuts impacting shelters; prioritization of police response to vagrancy complaints
- Last Monday of the month Community Meeting – 10/05 “Motor Vehicle B&E”

2. *Carla Richards – National Bio-safety Lab*

- Outreach Update –
 - BSL Advisory Committee up & running (Chris Brayton to keep NA appraised)
 - Formal office hours up & running
 - Weekly radio piece – “Health Matters” – Sundays 1:45 – 2:00 pm, 1090 AM
 - Information repositories established in more & more neighborhood libraries
- Regulatory Process Update –
 - BRA – Impact Report filed public comment period until 10/13; 10/14 hearing
 - MA EPA – Public comment period ends 10/25
 - Federal EPA – not filed yet
- Community Benefits Package – not
- Facility still expected to open on schedule in 2008

Development Update:

- Olympia Flowers/7-11 – renovations in progress
- Vintages (Minot Hall) – Breakfast/lunch café & wine shop w/outdoor seating
 - Licensing hearing 8/18; expected to open late '04
- 700 Harrison – 10/5 Landmarks hearing; working on financing
- 731 Harrison – Landmarks hearing 9/9; late Fall ground breaking?
- Penmark – rehab of school bldg starting; bldg. will be “watertight” 8/05; est. completion '06; Zoning hearing on 9/7, 9:30 a.m. re variance

New Business:

- BRA wants to close off the vacant lot at E. Newton & Harrison (former Bates “sculpture garden”); others want it accessible for homeless people overnight & for dog walking; requested a vote by NA membership:
- **Motion:** To keep the lot accessible AND have it cleaned & maintained by the City.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 against, 4 abstentions