

# NEWTON HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD AREA COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 5TH, 2013

Attending: Srdj Nedeljkovic, Greg Reibman, Robert Solomon, Rodney Barker, Groot Gregory, Barbara Darnell

Guests: Mildred Hutchison, Carol Mc Ferson, Lily Zerrllan, Chris Steele, Diane Khalaj, Ron Mauri

Meeting called to order at 7:35 at which time a quorum present.

The minutes of November and October meetings were approved 5-0-0

The Treasurer's report was approved 5-0-0

Lily Zerrllan from nextdoor.com introduced this social networking site.

- Venture backed startup with three year launch window. Business model will be to sell to local advertiser
- Private network that is restricted residents that need to be validated member of the area
- Based on Harvard research to use social networking to bring community together, site encourages face to face gatherings
- Messages can be sent to adjacent neighborhoods
- Seems to be popular for holiday gatherings
- City can partner with site to share police alerts
- Site is self-managed and self-regulated, in rare cases company can block users
- Neighborhoods are limited to 3000 households
- Current Highlands map is split between north and south, Area Council would want the map be set to current service area
- Local businesses can join as individuals
- Businesses would benefit from hearing about local events perhaps more than advertising
- Area Council will consider benefits

Diane Khalaj, the liaison from Merchants Coalition, presented some upcoming events in the community.

- Dec 13 is holiday stroll, AC to help with promotion
- merchants need help stringing lights in square, John Rice would be good contact to finding helpers
- Discussed opportunities to draw business
- Chamber suggests holding a cash mob in the spring
- Motion \$250 to merchants coalition to support promotion of sing along passed 6-0-0

Discussed infrastructure issues.

- Robert spoke to Bill Pailey, cross walks are still in need of painting
- Srdjan also spoke to Bill Pailey, many projects delayed primarily due to contractor problems and we also will need to content with the weather
- Action Srdjan to contact Pailey for update and stress need for crosswalks on Centre street

Service area map updates.

- Srdjan will work with Waban and Upper Falls to propose updated service area boundaries

Winter Social.

- Will be held on Jan 25
- We need to check with John Rice to see if any music is lined up
- Chris may have a line of music
- We will have skating if the weather is cold enough
- We will consider adding a service component, collect food for local food bank
- Merchants are considering a service event on valentine's day

Transportation.

- TAG has adopted Roberts letter of support for highlands t-stop accessibility improvements
- Discussed options for Allerton Rd

Ice rink.

- Paul to be building soon

Parking.

- Ron spoke to Mayor about highlands parking pilot
- Seems the plan is to roll out several pilots simultaneously city wide
- There are feelings that the planning department is only considering department developed ideas
- We should consider involvement of local alderman

Inauguration.

- David Olsen will be at the January meeting to swear in members
- Groot to invite other area councils to have group event

Meeting adorned at 9:45