

MINUTES OF THE UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

DATE: August 16, 2018

LOCATION: Emerson Community Center

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jo-Louise Allen	Anil Adyanthaya
Julie Irish	Marie Jackson
Maxine Bridger	Susan Huffman
Jack Neville	Nina Kochs
Jeff Riklin	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councilor John Rice  
Carol Stapleton

PUBLIC:

Jennifer Lee	Chloe Lee	Philip Lee	Marie Lee
Jay Webb	Ellen Katz	John Bulian	Bill Humphrey
Jen Kohl	Chris Steele		

A. Approval of Minutes from June Meeting  
The minutes were approved.

B. Public Comment

C. Treasurer's Report  
Details will be sent out later. Nothing has changed.

D. Awarding of Ken Newcomb Upper Falls Book Award to Allie Riklin and Jennifer Lee  
The award was presented to Jennifer Lee and then, later, presented to Allie Riklin.

E. Discussion of Ellis Street Pedestrian Safety  
The sight lines are not good and it is a dangerous street for children trying to get to the school bus stop. Anil presented materials to the traffic calming people. The Traffic council didn't feel it was their issue. Anil will keep working on getting Ellis Street on the traffic calming list.

The intersection of Elliot Street and Mechanic will be evaluated for traffic calming.

F. Village Day Planning Committee  
The move to Chestnut Street shouldn't be an issue. Councilor Rice didn't get a no on the proposed move so he expects we'll get approval for it.

The Upper Falls Village Day (UFVD) working group met. There were suggestions for entertainment and a parade on the Greenway, maybe jugglers and a marching band. We shouldn't need as much power as in the past; what is needed can come from the Depot. Jack and Councilor Rice will check on Depot power supplies. The Clark Building was also discussed as a source of electric power. Instead of Pizza it was suggested we have restaurants set up food stands and we offer them free tables to do so. Maybe we could get food trucks. Catherine Ellis will reach out to vendors in Upper Falls.

Publicity was discussed. Sandwich boards, posters, and postcards sent out a week before, were discussed. We may have some yard signs from last year. We need to have a sandwich board at Emerson saying the Village Day location has changed.

There is no rain date.

#### G. Upper Falls Tee Shirts

Heidi made 6 designs and Shogun Curtis, a local artist who designed the Feast of the Falls poster, also made some designs. Having tee shirts in time for Village Day was discussed. It was also suggested we put up the designs at Village Day and have people comment on them. We'll get feed-back on Village Day unless we can finalize the design beforehand.

There seems to be a problem with the Upper Falls magnets. They separate in the rain. Julie said to send her a photo and she will pass those photos along to the company. We want the company to redo the magnets so we can replace them at Village Day.

#### H. Area Council Discussion of Cypress Tree Project on Elliot Street

The Council discussed whether or not we should take a position on the dispensary.

It was commented that dispensaries are now legal and sick people should be able to access them We do not want a NIMBY situation.

From Councilor Rice:

There is a proposed referendum limiting the number of recreational marijuana sites to from 2 to 4. There is an Opt-out group trying to put a referendum on the ballot opting out of the requirement to allow recreational sales sites in towns that approved recreational use. This group claims they have enough signatures to go before the City Council. If the Council rejects their proposed referendum, they will need another 3000 signatures. If there are two conflicting ballots then the one with the most votes wins unless the City has prioritized them.

Cypress Tree Management has only applied for a license to dispense medical marijuana. They would have to go back to the City Council to apply for a recreational use license.

Comments on the Cypress Tree proposal:

There are no police problems with the Garden City Remedies site. It's an appointment only site, not drop-in. There is a lot of confusion and misinformation out there. Should we correct the inaccuracies? Is there a place to do this?

MOTION: The Upper Falls Area Council supports the establishment of a medical marijuana facility to be run by Cypress Tree Management on the Green Tea site on Elliot Street.  
8 for and 1 against, so the motion passes.

There was some concern that since the Green Tea site is in Newton Highlands, the Upper Falls Area council shouldn't be involved. But UF constituents are concerned about it.

John Bulyan, a Needham selectman, talked about the dispensary in the Wexford area of Needham. Needham required free delivery and appointment-only dispensing. Needham has had no problems with the dispensary.

He pointed out that regulated marijuana will be safer than what one can get from illegal dealers. And he would like Needham to get some of the tax dollars. Recreational sales are still an issue for Needham.

A question was raised about the locations of recreational use dispensaries in Newton. They shouldn't all end up in Upper Falls. The City is working on locations, but right now is just reacting to requests as they come in.

We should send a letter to the Land Use Committee of the City Council regarding the motion we just passed.

A question was raised again about how the Area Council can share accurate information. There is a group called Respect the Vote. On September 17<sup>th</sup> the City Council will decide what will be on the ballot. If the Opt-Out group is planning to have a booth on Village Day, then maybe we should invite the Respect the Vote group to have one.

#### I. General Upper Falls News

Ruth Anne Fuller would like to have open office hours from 6 – 7, right before our regular meeting. Her office will publicize this.

#### J. Public comment/Questions

Two big black dogs have been attacking people in Hemlock Gorge. Jay Werb was attacked by the dog and called Needham animal control. He had to get rabies shots. Newton-Wellesley hospital has to file a report to Needham Animal Control before Needham will act. A questions was raised as to whether Newton could track down the dogs' owner.

There was a complaint that Newton will not do anything about coyotes.

A dog attacked some chickens and all the City did was to get the dog owner to apologize.

There has been some vandalism of the art installations along the Greenway.

The Swan Lake sculpture was knocked down three times. The pink chairs are now at Julie's. they had been on the Riverway for four months with no problems.

Strings were cut on the String art.

Carol said the police should be notified each time there is an act of vandalism.

#### K. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.