

# NEWTONVILLE AREA COUNCIL

## MINUTES FOR JANUARY 10, 2019

All Members were present, including: Peter Bruce, Dana D'Agostino, Tarik Lukas, Colleen Minaker, Maura Harrington, Tom Kraus, Marc Kaufman, Helene Sroat and Susan Reisler. Ward Councilor Emily Norton, Ex-Officio member was absent.

7:00 – 7:10 Approval of minutes. Members provided their edits of the December minutes and they were approved.

7:15- 7:30 Election of new officers- New officers were elected. Peter Bruce- President; Tarik Lukas, Vice-President, Dana D'Agostino- Treasurer, Maura Harrington- Secretary

7:30- 8:30 People wanted to review the Annual Report and suggest edits, paragraph by paragraph. Maura reminded people that in the future they must submit their edits in advance if they want them to be accepted. She noted changes and will submit the final report upon completion by posting it to the website.

8:30- 8:45 Burning Issues in the Community Fran Nanole, from Nonantum came to the meeting to thank the Committee for the Community Meeting we held and to ask how she can get further involved. The group suggested she attend the upcoming zoning meeting in Nonantum and possibly try to join one of the many associations or groups in the Newtonville/Nonantum area to get more informed and engaged in what's going on in the area. Fran expressed concern about if the Mayor is even listening to the public's opinions, our survey results, etc. and asked what can she do to ensure the Mayor considers the public's opinions? The NAC suggested she meet with the Mayor. Fran asked members to please also attend meetings around town to keep up the voice of the community and the group said they were committed to doing so.

Related to burning issues, Marc Kaufman reported that he met with Barney Heath to ask him if the Walnut Street improvements were put into an RFP and Barney said "he forgot" in include them in the latest RFP. He reported that \$1,050,000 was assigned for Newtonville improvements, to be paid for by Austin Street Development and that \$700,000 was earmarked by the City for Newtonville Improvements. Marc Kaufmans suggested that the NAC President should send a letter to the City Clerk/Planning Department for a copy of the draft RFP for review, before it is issued. He mentioned that a design guide for Newtonville is also supposed to be posted publicly and that we should ask for that, too.

Someone else mentioned that Austin Street development has agreed to pay \$10,000 toward Newtonville Area Council to go toward Arts related activities. The \$10,000 is included in the board order approving the Austin St. project (placed in the board order by John Rice, the Newton Highlands City Councilor).

Nobody reported who will receive that money or when, or how. Someone mentioned that in Boston, developers pay a community benefit amount of \$9.03 per square foot. Maura suggested we raise more noise about getting Newton to do something similar.

Peter Bruce asked Tom Kraus to provide a link to the survey's raw data to Brian Barash. He agreed to do so.

8:45- 9:00 January 8 Public meeting assessment- Susan Reisler recapped the January 8<sup>th</sup> public meeting for Tom Kraus, who was the only one absent from the meeting. All agreed the feedback was mostly positive but that the meeting got a little out of hand at the end. We agreed we need to move forward with the momentum gained from the meeting.

Action Items: Upload the links provided in the handouts onto the NAC Website; Send a meeting Notice of all future meetings and other community announcements to our listserv group.

Someone also suggested we create a flow chart on the website to show people how decisions are made by local government, to educate them about the process.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Maura Harrington, Secretary.