

NEWTONVILLE AREA COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Members present: Peter Bruce, Susan Reisler, Helene Sroat, Marc Kaufman, Dana D'Agostino, Colleen Minaker. Public person present: "Fran."

At 7:00 pm. Peter started the meeting. He handed out a packet which listed several topics to be discussed: i.e., minute revisions, possible city council Charter amendments, NAC newsletter, member roles and responsibilities, and the NAC mission statement.

At 7:15 pm. Council members approved the Dec. and Jan. minutes.

At 7:20 pm. Peter outlined the issue for possible Charter changes regarding Area Councils. The Charter sub-committee has proposed changes, which he claims may have over-stepped their authority. The issue is still evolving.

At 7:30 pm. Helene Sroat provided an Austin St. update. The project is running behind schedule by several months with no firm deadline for its completion but expected completion in July or August. The modular units have been delayed due to the very wet winter weather. Also, some monies were budgeted for community benefits, but the outcome on that is unclear at this point.

At 7:45 pm. NAC members read changes proposed regarding the council's mission statement. After some discussion members voted 6-0 to make no changes, except for one small edit.

At 8:00 pm. Dana reported on Village Day. She and Maura will write an *Event Time Line Manual*. This will be used in future to guide council members for future Village Day Events. The manual will outline the best practices for the fund raising, booth/entertainment selection, police details, food services, children's activities, and arts demonstrations. Also, Dana will meet with the city Comptroller soon to plan the financial accounts petty cash protocol.

At 8:15 p.m. Susan asked the members to provide a gesture to thank Fred Arnstein for his computer assistance in preparation for the Jan. 8 public meeting at Druker auditorium. After some discussion Marc suggested he design a recognition certificate to thank Fred, and that we have a small celebration. The members voted 6-0 in favor.

At 8:30 pm. Council members talked about zoning reform and the need to study further the implications of the current proposals. Marc Kaufman and Peter volunteered to form a working group and study the 2nd Hello Washington Street *Draft Vision*, as well as the proposed zoning reforms, and to reach out to legal experts to join in their work.

Peter suggested that members consider the formation of a working group to prepare for a possible candidate forum in the upcoming summer months. This topic will be discussed at future meetings.

At 8:40 pm Helene submitted the annual Treasurer report. She recommends that the report be submitted in the future in July to coincide with the city's budget approval schedule. Helene reported that the NAC total revenue for 2018 is \$10,021.27. The revenue was \$9,765.00 and interest was \$256.27.

Expenditures were \$12,081.62. The final NAC balance for 2018 is \$14,807.51. Helene attached a complete budget which will be posted on the NAC website.

At 8:50 pm. Peter discussed Tarik Lucas' proposals for a regular NAC newsletter. Council members agreed this was a good idea. It would inform Ward 2 residents about Area Council activities and interesting events and issues in Newtonville. It was also generally agreed that it should have considerable distinctive content, and not just reiterate announcements found elsewhere.

There was some discussion about a revision of the Area Council boundary map by recruiting new neighborhoods to join our council area. Some streets should be added to the list prepared 6 years ago. Helene noted that this takes time and could be done by going door to door for signatures on proposed additional streets.

Peter made a motion regarding the NAC Domain website password. He asked that Tom Kraus provide the password to him. The council members voted 6-0 on his motion. Tom transferred the account which was under his name to the Area Council. The domain name is newtonville.org. The registration is live and GODADDY is the provider. It now maps to the NAC website. Future costs will be paid by the NAC.

The council members voted 6-0 to ask the secretary to distribute the minutes 2 weeks prior to monthly meetings. Edits by members to these minutes must be sent a week early to Secretary Maura Harrington in preparation for the next monthly meeting.

The members present also voted unanimously that the NAC should study, and perhaps eventually advocate for the city to get powers to impose "impact fees" to help pay for the infrastructure costs of new developments.

Also, NAC members believe more discussion is needed about council communications and letter writing to ensure consistent messaging. This will be discussed further in the next meeting.

At 9:00 pm. Peter provided suggested changes to the Annual Report. The council members read the report and approved the final draft 6-0.

At 9:20 pm. Peter adjourned the meeting. Next meeting is March 14, 2019.

Submitted by former secretary, Colleen Minaker