

## NEWTONVILLE AREA COUNCIL MINUTES

### MARCH 14, 2019

All NAC members were present except for Tom Kraus, who resigned because he moved out of the area. Please see attached list of area residents, who also attended.

1. Meeting Minutes from January and February were approved.
2. Burning Issues in the Community:
3. Helene Sroat provided an update of the Austin Street project. Marc proposed that the NAC write a letter requesting that the City Council set aside Bram Way, adjacent to the Public Plaza, to close it to traffic, using moveable planters when it is closed. He offered to draft a letter, which he will send around to NAC members for review prior to publishing.
4. The group discussed how we should replace Tom. It was suggested that we publicize the position to the community on our website and send around an announcement to the various list servs that serve the community. Tarik cited the By-Laws, section 5, which outlines the rules and procedures for replacing a member. Tarik, Peter and Marc agreed to work on the announcement and will send it to the Tab as well as post it on our website and various other places.
5. Peter Bruce brought up the topic of Zoning and asked Peter Harrington (community member guest) to provide an overview of the zoning ordinance update process, which he did. Peter B. then took questions from the audience, of which there were several. Action Items suggested to the community were:
  - a. Read the proposed zoning changes on the Newtonma.gov website
  - b. Get involved in local citizen groups who are working to slow down the process, so people have a chance to better understand the proposed changes.
  - c. Maura suggested sending out a memo to everyone on our listserv to urge them to request a delay in sending the final draft of the Hello Washington Street Vision and Zoning Plan to the City Council for a vote, which they plan to do by April 19<sup>th</sup>. She offered to draft the memo and send it around to NAC members prior to sending out.
6. Marc moved to have the NAC submit a letter requesting that the City Council slow down the Zoning draft process. A vote was taken by the group and all approved except Helene, who was opposed to a slow-down.
7. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Maura Harrington, NAC Secretary