

NEWTONVILLE AREA COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2019

All NAC members were present. Please see attached list of area residents, who also attended.

Burning Issues in the Community:

Peter Bruce asked attendees to introduce themselves. All attendees were people who are interested in filling the open slot on the NAC. Each potential candidate introduced themselves and stated why they are interested in being part of the NAC. Peter then thanked them and told them we will vote on the candidate in May. Someone asked for a summary of all candidates to be mailed around to the NAC members so they could review it before the next meeting. Peter said he would work on that.

Newton Serves day is coming up on April 28th. Marc wanted the NAC to do something on behalf of the group and it was decided that Marc and Helene would purchase plants and find the pots we had last year and fill those and distribute them around Walnut and Washington Streets. Peter and Susan also agreed to volunteer to help.

Emily Norton also mentioned that Kay Kahn got someone to purchase 20-30 new trees for Washington Street and they will be planted in April or May.

Marc wants the NAC to send a letter to the City Councilors about Austin Street's public plaza, to get the side street closed off to cars to expand the plaza, during certain times of the day. He agreed to draft a letter and share it with the group prior to sending out.

Colleen is opposed to sending a letter on behalf of the NAC because she is opposed to closing Bram way between October and June (essentially during the winter months). However, for the record, Colleen stated she does see value in closing the entrance when people are making use of the area for a community activity, for example.

Maura and Dana presented an update about Village Day and they continue to organize the event. The event will be on September 29, 2019 this year and it will be from 12-5 pm. Food trucks were suggested for this year as well.

The discussion of the replacement of Tom Kraus came up and we discussed criteria for the process:

1. We must vote in a new member by May
2. 2/3 of members need for someone to get elected
3. Other candidates can run for a seat this November.
4. A deadline for accepting candidates was made for April 25, 2019 on Peter Bruce's suggestion.

We held a discussion about hosting a city council debate and it was decided we would begin with Ward 2 and move on from there. Peter said he will look into the option of hosting at Cabot School and report back next meeting. Also, he set up a working group to help and Martina Jackson, Susan, Peter, and Marc all agreed to be on it.

Someone came to the meeting late and he introduced himself as Richard. He spoke a little bit about Washington Street transportation.

Someone suggested we honor Fred Arnstein for all his contributions toward the Washington Street project work we have done. It was decided a plaque would be made for him as a Certification of Recognition and we will present it to him at the next meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Maura Harrington, NAC Secretary