

**NEWTONVILLE AREA COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**MAY 9, 2019**

The **meeting minutes** from April were approved.

**Burning Issues** in the Community:

- Nathaniel Lichtin from the Newton Highlands Area Council was present and spoke about steps to follow for an election forum, in relation to the NAC's upcoming debates that we will host in the Fall. He provided us with some recommendations and said he would follow-through with some written guidelines that we can use.

**Local Updates: Shaping Our Built Environment-** Peter discussed what's going on with the 28 Austin Street project, Walnut St. Hardscape Project and Washington Place. He spoke about reports from the Ward 2 councilors and there was some discussion about it. The NAC agreed that we need to keep pushing our city councilors to ensure they listen to their constituents and not allow rezoning for 10-12 story buildings!

**New Plaza Opening-** Marc announced that he wanted the NAC to host a new plaza opening at Austin Street with a party or event of some kind. He didn't want that to be on Village Day and it was agreed he would work with Helene, Marc and Dana and others to develop a plan and report back in June.

**Village Day Update:** Maura and Dana reported that they have been meeting and are making progress on Village Day. Marc will design the signs again (which will be very similar to what exists already) and we have some volunteers. The date was announced as September 29, 2019. This brought up some comments from the audience, stating we might reconsider the date since that is the eve of Rosh Hashanah. Maura agreed they will take that in consideration and see if they can find another date that works for the city and residents.

**New NAC Member Elections:** Peter Bruce led the election process of candidates to replace Tom Kraus. It was determined that each candidate would get a chance to speak for two minutes in front of the committee. Then each candidate was questioned individually for up to 7 minutes by the members. After that, the committee voted for the candidate they liked the best. The first one to achieve 2/3 of the votes would win. Candidates included: Martina Jackson, Jack Porter, Kirill Alshewski, Carolyn Gabbay, and Brenna Boyd (Lynne LeBlanc was unable to attend). Martina won in the first round and was thus immediately elected as the newest Council member. She will serve through the end of 2019 and will need to run for the seat if she wants to keep it in the Fall.

**Acknowledgment:** The last item of the evening was that the NAC acknowledged Fred Arnstein and all the help and contributions he has given to the NAC this and last year. Cake was served and the NAC created a certificate for Fred, in appreciation.