

## NEWTONVILLE AREA COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 8, 2019

Newton City Hall, Room 211

Members present: Peter Bruce, Tarik Lucas, Dana D'Agostino, Helene Sroat, Martina Jackson, Marc Kaufman, & Susan Reisler

Absent: Maura Harrington & Colleen Minaker

7:05-Approved the June 2019 minutes 5-0

7:10-Approved the July 2019 minutes 6-0

7:12- Burning Issues:

Peter Bruce postponed the Newtonville boundaries discussion. 3 MBTA Commuter Rail Stations was the next issue. The conversation focused on the access to the platforms, handicap accessibility, benefit of using both tracks, lack of state funding for increased service.

7:28 Helene Sroat arrives

The Area Councils should advocate for better MBTA Commuter Rail service.

Nathaniel Lichtin of the Highlands Area Council stated that the Planning and Development Board will vote on re-zoning the Northland project in early September.

Dana D'Agostino mentioned that other cities and towns in the region are having moratoriums on future development projects. Susan Reisler mentioned that 28 Austin Street is having tours. She also mentioned that the average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment that consists of 1,050 square feet costs \$4,085/month. A 1-bedroom apartment that consists of 825 square feet costs on average \$3,200/month. Parking in a reserved spot is \$175/month, parking in a non-reserved spot is \$125/month. Storage space in the basement is \$125/month. And the 2-bedroom penthouse unit costs \$7,400/month.

7:50-Newtonville Village Day Update

Dana reported that the NAC is good for sponsors and both rentals. Maura Harrington has done an excellent job with the sponsorships. We have 3 additional sponsors this year (Brewers, Henry Bear Park and Star Market) which brings the total to 12 Gold/Silver sponsors. Mayor Fuller has been confirmed for the cake cutting and the performers for both Highland Ave and Austin St are lined up. The children's train will run and Dana will place an order for t-shirts and put a deposit down for caricature artists in the next week. We are also working with Brewers to get a one-day permit for an outdoor beer garden. To date, we have 23 confirmed booths and anticipate a total of 40-45 with many signing up in early Sept.

There was conversation about having Garden Remedies as a sponsor for the event. Several members of the council stated that it would be a bad idea, and that any conversation about having Garden Remedies as a sponsor should go through the city's Law Department before the NAC would decide on a sponsorship. There will be two music stages. One on Walnut Street and the other on Austin Street. And Dana stated that we would need to rent a tent for village day.

8:07-City Council Debates

Peter announced that the debates for competitive races in Wards 1-4 will take place on Sunday October 20th from 2-5pm in the Newton North High School cafeteria. This is also as the same

day as the Newton Harvest Fair in Newton Centre. The debates for competitive races in Wards 5-8 will take place on Sunday October 27th. The location and times are still unknown. The moderator(s) is also still unknown.

#### 8:20pm-Washington Street Vision Plan

Peter started the conversation about how the Vision Plan doesn't match the survey results from the NAC and the Principle Group. Martina Jackson said an office building on Washington Street should be similar to the one on the corner of Washington/Crafts Street. Helene Sroat stated that there should be a negotiation when it comes to building heights on Washington Street. Marc Kaufman talked about how 28 Austin Street and Washington Place have community benefits for the public. Tarik Lucas mentioned that the 10-story building in the vision plan on the corner of Washington and Crafts Streets could be a laboratory building. And without proper transit access, could lead to serious traffic problems on that corner. It was then suggested that the NAC write a newsletter, where-in the NAC could re-affirm the results from the Envisioning Washington Street Survey, then compare it to the Washington Street Vision Plan.

It was also agreed that Peter Bruce ask Councilor Susan Albright for special time at the Zoning and Planning committee of the City Council on September 9th to make a presentation to the Council and public. The presentation would again re-affirm the survey and contrast it to the Washington Street Vision Plan. A working group would need to be formed to help with the presentation on September 9th.

Submitted by: Tarik Lucas  
Vice-President