

Newtonville Area Council Minutes for May 15, 2018

Members present: Peter Bruce, Helene Sroat, Tom Kraus , Susan Reisler, Marc Kaufman, Dana Dagostino, Tarik Lucas, Colleen Minaker

Absent : Maura Harrington

Members of the public attending: N. Lichtin and F. Arnstein

7:00 pm. Peter Bruce opened the meeting.

April 30, 2018 Minutes were approved.

Susan Reisler began with a discussion about the purpose of the Feb.15, charrette. She stressed it was the first part of a larger process to understand and gauge how the Newtonville community feels about newly approved mixed use housing development and how this will affect village commerce and the quality of life.

Several council members stressed the importance of using the actual name of Washington St. and avoid using the term Washington corridor. Much of the charrette report is complete. Susan and Maura will complete changes to the section about Business Mix sometime next week.

Tom Kraus will change his Housing section slightly by revising his first paragraph about housing density. He will move his sentence about clustering in village centers to the end of the first paragraph.

Peter Bruce also agreed to revise slightly the sentences about Jeff Speck in the Transportation section.

The members voted not to disclose the titles of the NAC members on the report.

Council members approved the content of the report 8-0.

Peter Harrington sent a letter to the NAC members. Tarik Lucas read parts of the letter which offered some suggestions about the charrette report. It cautioned the council to avoid drawing conclusions from the report, as this could lead to attacks by people on various sides of the issue. He believes the NAC should remain objective about the diverse range of public opinion results. Peter H thinks the report of 12 pages is too long. Also, supporters of both sides of the housing issue can draw valid conclusions from the report which can create controversy and confusion.

Peter H's letter said he believes the bullet points for each section offer a good representation of the wide range of public opinion.

The NAC members read the letter individually but were not ready to comment on the suggestions Peter H made in his letter.

8:00 pm. Marc Kaufman provided copies of the post card revisions. The front of the card outlines the purpose of the survey to be mailed to residents in Wards 1,2,3. It identifies the survey website and the NAC.

The back of the card indicates how to take the survey on line and a phone number for a paper survey, plus the NAC mailing address. The

Several members asked about total costs for the mailings. A budget has not been set yet. After future discussions about the costs which could be more than \$5000. a final vote will be taken. Marc stressed the need to encourage people to complete the digital survey as this will keep costs down. The members voted to approve the post card.

8:45 pm. The council members continued revisions of the survey questions. They completed up to the Transportation section. A final NAC meeting will be scheduled the week of May 22, at 7:00 pm at Newton City Hall to complete the survey and vote for its approval.

9:15 pm. Peter Bruce adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Calleen Minaker, Secretary