

NEWTONVILLE AREA COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting July 12, 2018

Members present: Peter Bruce, Tom Kraus, Dana D'Agostino, Helene Sroat, Susan Reisler, Marc Kaufman, Tarik Lucas, Colleen Minaker
Maura Harrington was conferenced by telephone

Members of the public: Joy Huber, Fred Arnstein and Peter Harrington

Peter Bruce opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

He read the minutes. The members approved the minutes.

At 7:10 pm. Tarik Lucas spoke about a Jazz Festival fund raising Brunch proposal of the NewArt Center located in Newtonville Ma. The event is a cultural activity. They requested a financial donation from the Area Council. Members have not developed a policy yet regarding community donations. Maura Harrington suggested we discuss a protocol policy at a future date. For now, the members agreed that the NAC would not donate to the Brunch but instead provide advertising via the NAC website.

At 7:20 pm. Tom Kraus made a suggestion regarding the Walnut St. reconstruction project. He believes contrasting paint on the cross walks is not as safe as the use of contrasting textured materials such as cobble stone. He and Marc Kaufman offered to write a letter to the Planning Department. In it they will outline an alternative safety precaution. They will send the letter to the NAC members for approval first.

At 7:30 pm. Bob Carleo addressed the members. Bob had sent a letter to the NAC about the issue of rezoning and used the term "Null Alternative". He is a former State civil engineer and a planner. He believes that the city of Newton must send out RFPs, (requests for proposals) before redesigning Washington St. Road problems must be studied and a competitive bid process must be followed. He believes this process has not been initiated yet. He also objects to the rezoning process. He thinks there is a "Null Alternative" which must be considered during this planning process. He disagreed with the idea that Newton must rezone land use and that no changes ought to be considered. This is the Null Alternative.

At 7:45 pm. Dana D'Agostino delivered the return copies of the paper survey. Several NAC members Maura, Tom and Peter will scan the copies. Peter will store extra copies in a binder.

At 8:00 pm. Members discussed which digital survey results might be invalidated. Many were incomplete and some not signed. The NAC decided to allow all surveys to be counted. These will be entered into Survey Monkey and compiled on the City Server. Maura will produce a PDF. All data will be archived on the NAC website. People can download the results. Survey respondents will not have their identity and email addresses accessible. Respondents' emails will be added to the NAC mailing list. Maura and Tom will complete the mailing list using "Constant Contact". Mr. Mulvey from the city IT department may help. Tim Stone's Beautiful Newtonville

mailing list will be merged with the new NAC list. A later date will be established for survey data release. Several members agreed to help scan survey results into the computer.

Peter Harrington recommended that the survey data results be released before the Planning Dept. makes public its Pattern Book for the rezoning of the city land use. The survey will be important to political groups and academics.

Peter Bruce made a motion: The survey results will be released by July 26, 2018. Peter Bruce will write an executive summary to accompany the survey release. In September the NAC will release a longer more complete summary of the survey data results. The members voted on the motion. The vote was 8-1 in favor of the motion. Tarik Lucas opposed the motion.

At 9:30 pm. Peter Bruce adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm August 9, at city hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Minaker
Secretary