

Newtonville Area Council Meeting Sept. 13, 2018

Members present: M. Harrington, P. Bruce, Tom Kraus, D. D'Agostino, S. Reisler, M. Kaufman, T. Lucas, C. Minaker
Absent: Helene Sroat

Public Guests: Meg Ward, Alison Conant, Dan Elias, Kim Spencer, Jennifer London, Lia Hempel

At 7:05 pm. Maura Harrington opened the meeting. The members approved the minutes for Aug. 9 and 16. Tarik asked for approval of the July 12, Minutes which had been reviewed in August but needed a final approval after some changes were made. The members approved the July minutes.

At 7:10 pm. Maura called on Meg Ward and Alison Conant to speak about the tree clear cutting on the commuter rail line close to their homes. The tree buffer on the state maintained land abutting Washington St. was completely cut down as new cable lines were installed along the rail tracks. Home owners abutting Washington St. were unpleasantly surprised by this procedure. Meg and Alison discussed the resulting problems, traffic is very loud, dirt on homes has increased dramatically. The trees acted as a sun and wind barrier. They wanted to know why the trees were cut down instead of being pruned. Meg and Alison asked the NAC members how they might proceed in addressing this problem? Remediation is needed. Several members spoke in support of the beautification of Washington St. All members agreed something must be done to restore adequate buffering and believe Councilor Norton and State Rep. Kay Kahn should be called on to assist Meg and Alison about a remediation Plan. Tom Kraus offered to assist them with a letter to the State. The NAC voted 8-0-1 to support the effort.

At 7:30 pm. Tarik Lucas offered some information about the upcoming City Council meeting regarding 3 potential ballot questions. The vote on the Marijuana issue is complicated. Garden Remedies which sells medical marijuana at its legal establishment could lose their license if the upcoming ballot question disqualifies their right to sell in Newton.

At 7:40 pm. Dan Elias owner of the NewArt Center in Newtonville presented materials outlining the history and present art programs at his establishment. The center is a not for profit organization. It offers art classes and workshops and reaches several thousand families in the community. Dan believes this keeps the arts alive and fosters creativity for hundreds of people. Dan and 3 of his cohorts came to the NAC to outline the Centers need for preservation and renewal. The roof needs repair, ADA provisions must be implemented. Basic infrastructure needs repair. Dan had a feasibility study done. The total renovation cost would exceed \$6 million. Dan asked the NAC to help with ideas, connections and suggestions as they prepare for this major undertaking.

Marc Kaufman suggested the NAC help Dan reach out to other Newton Area Councils and also solicit their support. The NAC will also notify community groups and residents about Dazzle the October 21 fund raising event. The NAC voted 8-0-1 to support these events.

At 8:00 pm. Tom Kraus provided to the council the text of a legal notice written by solicitor Ouida Young. She wrote a notice which outlines the City policy for the NAC e-mail list. The policy says that the NAC shall only utilize the list and provide information relevant to Newtonville residents, businesses. Recipients may unsubscribe at any time. The e-mail lists are classified as public records.

The NAC will send an opt in letter to the over 2100 member list. The new list will be housed in MAILCHIMP. Tom and Dana will work to set up a template and devise a system to get out the e-mails. A payment account can be set up through the city. Cost will be determined.

At 8:30 pm. Maura provide a village day update. Events will include musicians, dancers a bouncy house and train rides. The Masonic Temple provided funds for a community cake. The top of the cake replicates

the tower on the Masonic building. Mayor Fuller will speak at 2:00 pm and help cut the cake to be distributed to the community. Many of the food establishments will be open. NAC members will arrive at 10:00 am to assist with the set up. At noon the Village Day will open. People will be encouraged to park at Newton North. Dana and Tom will provide Survey copies at the NAC table. Forty booths are expected and over \$4000. is expected to be raised for our annual fund raising event. Maura will place 6 sandwich boards at intersections to advertise the event. Several members will send out e-mail notices to community and school groups. Marc will send a PDF to city websites.

Respectfully submitted by secretary Colleen Minaker