

MINUTES OF THE NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

June 16, 2022 7:00 p.m

Meeting ID: 714 158 912

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Meeting ID: 714 158 912

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/714158912>

June 16, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Area Councilors In attendance:

Jay Werb

Anil Andiyanthaya

Kathaleen Brearley

Patricia Connolly

Julie Irish

Matt Lai

Jeff Riklin

Jack Neville

Carol Stapleton, representative for Parks and Recreation

1. **1) Approval of Minutes from May Meeting (5 minutes)**

Jeff motioned to accept the minutes and Patty second the motion to approve the May minutes as submitted.

2. **2) Treasurer's Report (5 minutes)** The Treasurer reported there were no changes to the account balance

3. **3) Public Comment/Questions?** Anil confirmed October 2nd as the date for Village Day in 2022. Carol reported that Oct 2 was on her calendar for Parks and Recreation.

4) **La Nuestra Cannabis Dispensary Update from La Nuestra (25 minutes)**

Zach Hinkle (COO, Boston Garden) and Jonathan Tucker (co-owner for Nuestra) joined Phil Silverman (Counsel working on behalf of multiple cannabis businesses including La Nuestra), led this discussion and presented slides from their previous presentation to NUFAC to remind everyone of facts and highlights of their proposal. He reminded everyone of the proposed property improvements, including shrubbery along the greenway. Silverman highlighted some of the same issues regarding decrease in demand after Cannabis has become available throughout the state. One of the other aspects is that many of the customers are coming to purchase products for medical use even though it is a recreational facility. Jack asked about the location choice and how Nuestra could contribute to the community. Also, they discussed why

the community needs a second cannabis store right down the street from REDI. Phil Silverman reminded the Area Council that this is an Economic Empowerment entity, and that their facility would be a good neighbor to the community. Silverman reminded the council that the proposal includes some shrubbery/landscaping along the greenway. Julie asked about the dumpster currently on the property, and Phil agreed that two bins might be sufficient instead of a dumpster. Anil asked about security at the facility. Phil seemed to think that one security detail would be sufficient. A police detail is using assigned for the first couple of weeks, but usually deemed unnecessary. Jonathan Tucker made the case for their history of their ability to work with community. Loitering will not be tolerated on the facility as reported by Phil Silverman. Jeff made a motion that we support this applicant (and their proposal) as submitted with the proviso that they work out any issues with the City and the abutting preschool, with the caveat that Nuestra promise to be in close communication NUFAC as requested after they open, regarding community activities or any other concerns from the community. 7 members were in favor of this motion and there was one No vote on this motion.

5) Northland Update (Jay Werb) (10 minutes)

Jay reported on updates and how there will be an upcoming meeting on Wed June 22.

Gary (also liaison committee member) reiterated that he has asked that improved communication links for the public be discussed at the next liaison committee meeting.

a) Mechanic Street Emergency Access

Paula Kelleher reported based on the proposal maps shared with the Newton Conservation Commission is that the proposed Emergency Access road to access the Northland development at the bottom of Mechanic Street. (from Lattice Street- i.e. Tower Road) She also reported from the deputy fire chief that emergency gates are included on emergency access roads and this helps to prevent emergency access roads from becoming a cut through. If it were for emergency access only that is a completely different issue. The council was generally concerned about the intent of this access route. Jay and Jeff suggested that maybe Anil could contact the Traffic Council since this seems to be something coming from the City, as well as our City Councilors. Gary reported that in the Liaison Committee Northland stated that they didn't want this emergency access road and that it was requested by the city. There was a consensus that we need more information from the city before we go forward with this topic.

6) Expenses for 2022 Village Day and related planning (10 minutes)

1. **a) Confirmation of October 2 date**
2. **b) Todo's**

Anil reminded the council about the previous discussion about improving the signage for village day. Will also consider the purchase of a loud speaker and mic for announcements at Village Day.

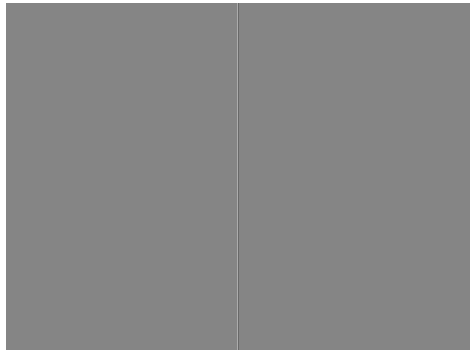
i) Vendors

ii) Entertainment Jeff and Patty said they would reach out to Newton South Student musicians or Anil would look into hiring the Dixie band that performed at a previous village day.

iii) Sponsors Anil will use the same tool as last year for procuring sponsors

7) Pettee Square Improvements/Pocket Park Near Upper Falls Greenway (10 minutes) Still waiting on Federal and State applications for funding on this project

7. **8) Ken Newcomb Upper Falls Book Award (5 minutes)** Jeff and Anil reported that There has been little interest and very few submissions over the last two years.
8. **9) Recording of Area Council Meetings – Update (5 minutes)**
Anil is waiting to hear back from lawyers in the City Counsel’s Office on this issue.
9. **10) Action Items from May Meeting (10 minutes)**
Anil reported that other Area Councils have various practices for posting minutes.
10. **11) August Meeting Logistics (10 minutes)**
There was a consensus that if we are required to return to in person meetings in August that we might need to continue with the pre-Pandemic practice of in person only rather than hybrid due to the technical limitations in the Emerson Community Center.



12) General Upper Falls News (5 minutes)

The CDC (Jeff, Jack and Anil) have narrowed the applicants down to two people, for the next occupant at The Depot (Petee Square), and they expect to have a selection made by the next meeting in August.

Jeff Riklin reported on behalf of the Historic Commission on 13-19 Winter St Still ongoing but work is speeding up on finishing this project: windows installed, etc.

959 Chestnut- Applicants came back to the Historic Commission. Have proposed two new options for compliance with the height of the structure. They have been asked to come back to the Historic Commission with further details on these proposed solutions.

13) Public Comment/Questions?

14) Adjourn Jeff motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:58PM

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton’s ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city’s TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.