

## **Eight Streets Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting Minutes March, 2015**

Next meeting: Tuesday April 14th

Project Place Common Room

Guest speaker: Frank O'Brian from DPW: Themes for discussion: snow removal, cross walk repair and street paving

### **Guest Speaker**

State Representative Aaron Michlewitz: See the outline of his presentation at the end of these minutes. Mr. Michlewitz, our representative at the Mass State House presented some of the major bills he is currently working on and allowed the group an open Q&A

### **Neighborhood updates**

- City Councilor Michelle Woo, logs all City Council meetings minutes to her Facebook page, follow her at <https://www.facebook.com/michelleforboston> for more detail.
- South End Buttery, 10 years at the location, special events honoring their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/names/2015/03/11/south-end-buttery-celebrates-years/NqzmltCzXChGEw15xBfB5O/story.html>
- Watson Park: for Boston Shines there is a wish to have the Major attend: Jordan Deasy, Neighborhood Liaison from the City of Boston was present and will communicate our friendly invitation.
- Boston Shines in the South End: May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd
  - for more detail visit <http://www.cityofboston.gov/ons/BostonShines/>

### **Shawmut Yoga - Sean McCarthy, owner**

New business opening where Urbanity was only months ago . Although outside ESNA, they are seeking wider neighborhood support for the re-zoning they need. A majority vote and motion of non-opposition was had and a letter of non-opposition will be sent to Jordan Deasy, City of Boston

### **Shawmut Yoga – Sean McCarthy, owner**

- New business opening on Shawmut
- Seeking wider support

- Peters Park Fundraising – Bernard Petersen, FoPP Board member presented

A fundraising effort will begin this Spring to raise money for a major overhaul of the Peters Park dog run area. Please look to the Friends of Peters Park website at the end of April for more information on how you can support this effort: <http://www.peterspark.org/>

The Peters Park dog run surface area is in need of an overhaul after 10 years of steady use. The drainage system which is multi-layered no longer drains properly and the result is poor drainage. This drainage issue produces large unsanitary puddles which produce regular odor and an unsanitary environment for the dogs.

After several contractor quotes and working alongside the City Parks department we've narrowed a search down to one contractor who will consider the four week job for \$49,000.

Scope:

- Remove and store boulders
- Strip and stockpile existing Rice Stone
- Remove and dispose of Mirafi Geo Fabric
- Strip and stockpile 1 1/2" Stone
- Excavate and truck off 6" depth of subgrade material
- Compact subgrade
- Adjust existing drainage to new grades repair as needed
- Place stockpiled 1 1/2" stone
- Install new Marifi staked 3' OC and adhesive the seams
- Place stockpiled Rice Stone with added 3" to make a total Rice Stone layer of 7"
- Finish grade to be 3" below existing walkways
- Reset boulders

Neighborhood Discussion – Michael Almond

Michael

- Boston Shines confirmed
- Focus on cross alleys
- Ringold, odd side of Bond Street, Taylor, Watson park is the plan this year
- 6 weeks away, coming up soon
- Watson Park: one capital thing for the year, Parks Commissioner: meeting to be coordinated
- Watson Park: taken damage from developers
- Watson Park: Shade garden suggested
- Watson Park: Public meeting if this is going to be labeled a Park: Friends Groups 501c
- Watson Park: Start with a plan, pick up in April meeting
- Stoop parties: Milford this year, late Spring, early Summer, possibly Taylor and Bond and Hanson too, they are all small

- Tue April 14, Frank O'Brien, Parks, DPW ask Ted , Community Liaison Public Works

Aaron Michlewitz:

- 5.5 years in office to date
- Appointed to Chair of financial services
- Patrick Lyons from Aaron Michelewitz office was also present at this meeting
- New parking under expressway, open in any snow emergency declared by the Mayor, as long as you have a South End sticker

Short-Term Residential Rentals

- Safety issues
- Awareness issues by neighbors
- All Renters must now Register with the State
- State now collects the data
- Liability insurance, Fire regulations, etc.
- Taxes to be collected
- Subleasing issues noted
- Bed & Breakfasts
- Looking to get their heads around this rapidly growing phenomena

Boston Olympic Commission

- Boston 2024 Olympic Bid
- State to get seat at table to ensure this is right for Boston or not
- Financial impact is biggest concerns
- Eminent domain
- Decision: USOC has to make its final bid in September
- IOC then has two years starting at the end of this year to end of 2017 to decide on who gets the game
- A lot of risk, 5 billion to the State potential financial risk
- Wide array of interest on both sides of the political arena

Gun Registry

- If you've been convicted of a gun violation your community will know who you are by name, picture and address, like a sex offender

Licensing

- Ensure quality of life for residents

- Liquor and entertainment
- Licensing Board can instill penalties
- Add more power for investigation
- Some tunnels are private
- Proper insurance for private tunnels
- April opening

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## **Legislative Proposals for 2015-2016 Session**

### **1) Short-Term Residential Rentals**

- Would direct short-term rentals to be registered with State & City
- Mandates that rentals be up to code on fire/electrical/safety matters
- Rentals would have to pay State and City hotel taxes (5% for State, 6.5% for Boston)
- Bill also mandates rentals have a minimum of \$500,000 of liability insurance
- Hotline to report problems: 1-855-424-7262

### **2) Boston Olympic Commission**

- Legislation would create a Commission to oversee Boston 2024 Olympic Bid
- Commission will oversee and gather facts and information relative to the public safety, economic and social impacts of siting the 2024 games in the candidate city.
- Would also mandate Boston 2024 post funds and expenditures online for public to view.

### **3) Preventing Wage theft and Promote Employer Accountability**

- Helps protect workers from wage theft and unfair subcontractor practices

- Would make contractors/subcontractors/outsources legally responsible for any labor violations. Current law can leave this in doubt
- Legislation being worked on with AFL-CIO and other labor unions

#### **4) Car Rental Fees**

- Exempts Boston and Cambridge residents from paying the surcharge on rental cars that goes to the Boston Convention Center.

#### **5) Tunnel Safety**

- Would require the state to access and report the amount of insurance listed and the amount of insurance required for all privately owned tunnels in the state.

#### **6) Supporting Efforts to Increase physical activity opportunities**

- Some schools and non-profits are reducing physical activity opportunities for children out of fear of liability.
- Legislation would place liability on group holding event, provided group consents

#### **7) Gun Offender Registry List**

- Would have State create a Gun Offender Registry List that would be available for the public to see.
- Similar to Sex Offender Registry List

#### **8) Fines for License Violations**

- Currently Licensing Board has no means of assessing businesses with purely financial penalties
- Legislation would allow Licensing Board to level financial fines on businesses while retaining all other penalties at their disposal