

Eight Streets Neighborhood Association

April 11th meeting minutes

*Gayle: make certain to correct website time and add agenda time slots to the website version of the meeting notices

Introductions and Agenda

Austin Blackmon - City of Boston Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. Talk on Climate Change, Impact on Boston and Preparedness

In his role, Mr. Blackmon oversees policy and programs on Energy, Climate Change, Sustainability, Building Safety, Historic Preservation and Open Space, including Climate Ready Boston, the Building Energy Reporting & Disclosure Ordinance, Rental Registry and Greenovate Boston, the city's community outreach initiative on sustainability. Mr. Blackmon is currently leading efforts to implement Boston's Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

Prior to his appointment with the City, Mr. Blackmon served as Interim Head of Project Finance at Terraverde Renewable Partners, a clean energy consulting firm focused on helping cities, school districts and companies implement solar projects and energy efficiency retrofits. His experience also includes positions at C12 Energy, Wells Fargo Securities' Energy Group and Booz Allen Hamilton's Strategy and Organization consulting practice. He also advised US Renewables Group by evaluating potential investments in waste recovery solutions.

Mr. Blackmon is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Business School.

Our department's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Boston by protecting air, water, climate, and land resources, and by preserving and improving the integrity of Boston's architectural and historic resources.

We maintain Boston's wealth of historic sites, buildings, landscapes, and waterways through protective designation and review processes.

We are focused on implementing the Mayor's commitment to sustainable development, climate protection, and the environment. We review environmental impact assessments, issue permits, and provide information and referral services on environmental issues.

How will climate change impact the South End and what is your approach to coming up with solutions?

Answer:

https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/document-file-01-2017/crb_-_focus_area_southend.pdf

Climate ready Boston is our data driven approach to financial damage

It will identify where are we most vulnerable

It will answer what the cost would be if we did nothing

Our weather in Boston is going in the direction of weather more akin to Birmingham, Alabama where weather is measured by a benchmark of number of days over 90 degrees

Heat is a big challenge, storm water flooding, warm weather holds more water in air thus more storms

End of century: three feet rise of sea level is expected. Boston will be 70% FEMA flood plain

Variance depends on how much CO2 is released in the atmosphere globally

What does it mean for our neighborhoods?

Answer:

It would cost an estimated 10 to 15 billion dollars for harbor wide barrier protection

Zoning green spaces is one solution which would absorb excess water

Infrastructure of buildings also being considered in the flood areas, should we be building water ready buildings in areas more vulnerable to flooding? This is an expensive option and not realistic for residential but will be used selectively for hospitals and critical infrastructure.

Imagine Boston 2030:

Transportation, Housing, Zoning, Green space, all talking to each other.

Draft of Imagine Boston 2030 to be published soon

How prepared is the city? Department of Emergency Management for a hurricane Sandy

What is the protocol for a category 5 storm?

Block as much water as possible

Allow people to get out

Systems to get back to normal as quickly as possible

What level of coordination is there with the State?

- Funded 1/3 of Imagine Boston
- State also doing their own studies

Carbon neutral by 2050

FIRST MAJOR MILESTONE COMPLETED FOR CLIMATE READY BOSTON

A team of scientists from across the state released updated climate projections for the City of Boston.

Website: <https://www.boston.gov/news/first-major-milestone-completed-climate-ready-boston>

www.climatereadyboston.gov

www.ImagineBoston.gov

Mike Kelly - Candidate for Boston City Council District 2

- History
- Grew up in public housing
- Owned an ice cream store
- Politically active in the South End
- Worked for Mayor Menino
- Campaign manager for one Menino election
- City Councillor, likes it because you can make changes or impact every single day
- Owned a business, good lessons from struggling, managing payroll

Bio taken from Boston San Pan newspaper:

Kelley has been quoted as saying, “The people of District 2 deserve a strong voice and tireless advocate on the City Council – someone with experience, understanding and a commitment to getting the job done for them. I know the difference one person can make; it’s something that drove my work in city government serving the neighborhoods and as a liaison to the LGBTQ community.”

Kelley told the cheering crowd that his campaign will focus on uniting the diverse district, creating opportunities for everyone, and improving public schools/education, transit and day-to-day quality of life. Simply put, Mike Kelley believes in “putting people first.”

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, an early supporter of Kelley’s, formally endorsed the candidate as he introduced him to the packed room, “For as long as I have known Mike Kelley, he has been a smart, compassionate and steady leader in this community. I am proud to endorse Mike Kelley to be our next District 2 City Councilor because I know he will represent all of the people in this district and will be a great partner to work with.”

Kelley is a longtime South Ender, public servant and startup founder. He is a former member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1726 from his time with Northwest Airlines as a ramp agent. There he learned first-hand the value of organized labor in a field that taught him what it was like to work for a decent wage, to enjoy the benefits of financial security, and to be treated fairly.

MiniLuxe - Review of their Design Plans for 536 Tremont Street

- Boston based chain business, 21 locations, 15 in New England
- 600 employees, 96 percent women and minority, 401K and health benefits
- Similar wood stain look as Emilio’s, but without the neon, since approved by Landmarks
- Grey, plumb, rose gold, white are their corporate colors
- Hours 8 - 9, 9 - 8 not confirmed just yet
- Exterior lighting fixtures will be kept, but painted black
- New signage far more in line with the neighborhood than Emilio’s was
- Alley lighting on a timer, rear and alley windows will be frosted
- Interior design plans will be shared with the neighborhood
- Agreement to meet with architect on collaborative basis on changing the step area in the front
- Interior: walls will be sound insulated
- Music will be played, but “not a noisy business”
- BPHC regulatory: State regulatory measures have been heightened and will be respected
- Deliveries through the front, every two weeks
- Snow removal by the owner and tenant
- Opening Mid-June

Adjourn