

## **ESNA February 13, 2018 - Meeting Notes**

### **Councilor Ed Flynn and Nicole Vilcina - City of Boston District 2**

- Opioid crisis: Mayor Walsh has proposed the re-opening of Long Island Bridge and a revamped full-service care facility. Cost of building the bridge is ~\$150M. Councilor had proposed to start a ferry service costing ~\$2.5M p.a. as an alternative. Land is owned by Quincy thereby any bridge building will need to be negotiated. Proposal is to work in partnership with Boston Medical Centre and the Department of Public Health to provide wholistic care to patients. An alternative to Long Island is to expand the Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain which is on State property with funds contributed by a rental car tax. Either solution appears to be some years away.
- Airbnb: South End and China Town have been strongly impacted (e.g. Ink Block) with a trend towards corporations buying up large tracts of units and then renting out. Public safety is the main concern. The City and State recognize the need for more regulation and a working group has been established at the Councilor level to come up with proposals. Gail Suyemoto volunteered to attend the public hearings and report back to ESNA with a recommended motion.
- Peters Park: Ted Pietras reviewed the status on the Land Wave and the fact that the Arts Commission does not have a decommissioning process. Faisa Sharif is working on providing such a process and getting it implemented. Ted also reviewed discussions with the Parks Department on \$375K improvements (\$100K of which is from the Parks Department) with the Friends of Peters Park seeking more user facility improvements rather than the entrance and circulatory ones proposed by Parks.
- Ringgold Park: Emily Ryzak mentioned that the fountain needs repainting and that the Friends Group has been struggling to get this done with the Parks Department.
- Watson Park: Michael Almond reviewed the lack of water supply in the park and recent correspondence with Commissioner Cook and Machel Jacques-Yarde. Councilor Flynn's office had reached out and confirmed March 2018 to be the date for the installation of the new water line. Councilor Flynn offered to host a meeting in his office with all interested

parties and Chris Cook to address these issues in a wholistic fashion. John Delano suggested we organize a walk through the local parks with Councilor Flynn.

### **Other issues**

- There was some discussion on the distribution of funds from the Community Preservation Act. Will they be evenly distributed across the City? Faisa Sharif offered to bridge a meeting with Christine Puff (?).
- Jim Heroux suggested all new building projects be subject to a 2% tax to pay for community green space.
- Tremont Street traffic speed abatement project is in the early planning phase. A number of community outreach meetings will be held. Some suggestions were made on more signs to remind drivers that the speed limit is 25 mph in all downtown Boston neighborhoods (wef January 2017).

### **Next ESNA meeting is March 13, 2018 at Project Place**

- Guest speakers: Faisa Sharif, Community Music Centre of Boston, and Michael and Margaret Woo, the owners of 20 Dwight Street (head house project)