

ESNA - May 8, 2018 - Meeting Notes

Ghita Akkar - Highline Development

- The purpose of this presentation was to introduce Highline Development - no specific approvals were sought from ESNA at this stage.
- Ghita Akkar lives in the Ellis Neighborhood and has developed a number of properties in the South End over the last few years. The last one was on East Concord.
- Highline is developing 27-29 Dwight Street with condominiums stretching across the floors of the two buildings.
- An elevator will be built on the inside.
- Demolition has started and dumpsters will be located to the rear of the property (in the parking lots) so there should be no loss of on-street parking space for residents during construction.
- Approvals have been granted by Landmarks for a roof deck.
- Variances are expected for the rear deck and the ground water recharge system. Gail Suyemoto requested that the ground water recharge system be placed at a depth lower than the living space of neighboring properties to prevent flooding issues and that the contractor stamp and date their architectural designs.
- Once ZBA has been contacted, Highline will be asked to work with the Mayor's ONS and ESNA for the neighborhood approval process.

Mike McDermott - Friends of Blackstone Innovation School

- Mike McDermott lives at 48 Waltham.
- He introduced a spring fundraiser that will take place on June 4th from 6.00-9.00 p.m. at Stella's Restaurant, 1525 Washington Street
- The event is also being sponsored by Formaggio and SOWA.
- Tickets are \$100.
- ESNA suggested Mike McDermott contact Suffolk Construction since they have offered to support a number of community events in the South End.
- Mike McDermott was also invited to give an annual update to ESNA which he accepted.

Other Business

- Berkeley Community Gardens: John McLachlan confirmed that the Trustees will be organizing their annual plant and flower sale on May 19th at the Tremont entrance.
- Peters Park: Ted Pietras confirmed that the Art Commission voted 4 to 3 in favor of removing the Land Wave. Ted also mentioned that in a recent meeting, Chris Cook (Parks

Commissioner) agreed to a full revamp of the basketball courts in Peters Park rather than just repairing the cracks.

- Ringgold Park: Michael Almond mentioned that Fête de la Musique will be sponsored in the park on June 23rd from 3.00-6.00 p.m.
- Watson Park: Colleen Fitzpatrick confirmed that FoWP are organizing a fundraiser in May-June. A new water line has finally been installed in the park. Fête de la Musique will be sponsored in the park on June 23rd from 3.00-6.00 p.m.

Other Issues

- 112 Shawmut Avenue comment period end June 1, 2018. Ed Allan attended the public meeting and expressed his concerns about parking and the number of 3 bedroom apartments to accommodate families. Everyone was encouraged to comment here: <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/shawmut-avenue-washington-street-block>
- Tremont Street redesign for pedestrian safety. You can view the documents and give your feedback here: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/tremont-street-design-project>
- Rats - should we organize a neighborhood walk through with ISD?

Next ESNA meeting is June 12, 2018 at Project Place