

ESNA - November 13, 2018 - Meeting Notes

Mr. Chris McNally, Inspectional Services Department

- Chris McNally provided an overview of his work in our Eight Streets neighborhood following the recent surge in rats. He has been baiting the sewer lines, alley ways and both Peters and Watson Parks. His direct number is 617-961-3339 and Chris McNally encouraged everyone to continue to call him as and when there are further rat sightings.
- Chris McNally will issue citations to households and commercial businesses that do not take action to control rats.
- Chris McNally said that rats sometimes do not take the bait, so it is important that we reduce the number of food sources. Trash left out overnight is a primary issue, as well the open trash barrels in Ringgold and Peters Parks. We talked about our efforts to address both of these issues. We have organized a walk-through with Councillor Ed Flynn on November 26th at 7.00 p.m. to discuss how the City can help limit the hours that trash is allowed on the street (curb side rat restaurants).

Mr. Garrick Durst, Capital One

- Garrick Durst provided an overview of Capital One's neighborhood engagement including the \$9K donation to Peters Park agreed with Bernard Peterson.
- Capital One also supports the Pine Street Inn and The Washington Street Gateway,
- They offer help on financial literacy.
- Garrick Durst was invited to attend our December ESNA social.

Mr. Socrates Abreu, 275 Shawmut Avenue

- Socrates Abreu, the owner of Chilacates Mexican Street Food, presented his plans for his new restaurant offering authentic Mexican cuisine at affordable prices.
- He expects 80% take-out and 20% eat-in.
- He is uncertain how to make best use of the seating space on the rear balcony. The street side seating will be retained.
- They have upgraded the hood and it will now expel air at the roof rather than over the rear yard and alley way.
- They will have garbage pick up everyday.
- Opening hours will depend on business interest although they anticipate opening until 10.00 p.m.
- They will offer a brunch menu.
- The Zoning Board of Appeal recently lifted the take-out restriction to Wholy Grain, although the license has still to be issued, and until that time, Chilacates cannot open the restaurant.
- Socrates Abreu was invited to attend our December ESNA social.

Other Neighborhood Updates

- Peters Park: Ted Pietras (President of FoPP) provided an update on the \$360K improvements. Construction has started at all the main entrances to the park.
- Watson Park: Linda Reisert said that \$9K has been fundraised to trim the trees. Work is expected to be accomplished in January 2019. The fence of Little Watson was repainted by HarborVest a corporate partner of the Community Music Center of Boston on October 10th and 11th.
- Berkeley Community Gardens: John McLachlan said that the gates are presently closed for the season.
- Ringgold Park: The trash barrel on the Waltham entrance will likely be removed to help mitigate rat issues.
- ESNA Holiday Party is planned for December 11 at The Eagle, and sponsored by John Delano and BenderHatch Insurance.
- Tremont Street Design Project - the next meeting is on November 28th at 6.00 p.m at the United South End Settlements Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave.
- Community Preservation Act - public meeting for Open Space projects is on Saturday November 17th 2018 from 10-12 am at the William J. Devine Golf Course Clubhouse, One Circuit Drive, Franklin Park, Dorchester, MA 02121
- All ESNA members are invited to join the Union Park Holiday Party on November 30th at the Ben Franklin Institute of Technology, 42 Berkeley Street 6.00-8.30 p.m.

Next ESNA social meeting is December 11, 2018 at The Eagle, 520 Tremont Street.