

ESNA – October 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Michael Almond, Valerie Bettini, Will Velasco, Paul Curtis, John McLachlan, Jon Pate, Robert Wulff, Ramy Riskalla, Faisa Sharif, Ed Allan, Daljit &/or Andy, Ted Pietras, Sophia Wang, Mary Chowdhury, Ed Flynn, Seth Daniel, Tara &/or James Heroux, Anesa Buchanan

WATSON PARK

Summary of the history of Watson Park which was created in 1974 by Julius Watson who lived on Taylor street.

Friends of Watson Park are applying for CPA (Community Preservation Act) funding. They have engaged a landscape architect, Jon Pate, to create a redesign of the larger of the two parks, creating a space for social gathering.

Jon Pate gave an overview of the plan for the park ---

- lowering the railing to about 28" to increase safety, allowing for someone to not be trapped in park.
- change the walkway, enlarge center section, adding in retaining walls, few benches for seating

A letter of support from City Council is also needed for this application. Ed Flynn indicated he will provide such a letter.

Some concern expressed about the barren space in the back of the Watson Park.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY development

Related Beal is proposing a new development incorporating the historical BFIT building. It includes 210,000 sf of senior housing, 80,000 sf retail, and 20,000 sf residential.

Currently, the plan can be found on the BPDA site. **It is recommended to look at the plans and submit comments as soon as possible.** Some concerns expressed by board members and others are:

- the height of the building, particularly so close to the street
- the dismantling of the auditorium in the BFIT building

Keep an eye out for the public meetings on this development. You can sign up to receive notification of the meetings at BPDA website.

<http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/41-berkeley-street>

COMPOSTING SERVICES in BOSTON ----- KEEP The RATS away!

Please consider composting your food scraps. Rats won't be so enticed by garbage bags because food is all being composted.

Two companies provide compost pick-up for a fee. Summary of how they work is given below.

Pick-Up Services

- Start you with a 5-gallon bucket
- Pick up weekly or every other week (Tuesdays for me)
- Deliver clean bucket when they pick up filled one
- Can put in meat, seafood, bones, shells, dairy, paper towels, ...
- Will bring you soil amendments (finished compost) a few times a year

Bootstrap Compost: www.bootstrapcompost.com, (617) 642-1979

- \$10/pickup if weekly, \$12/pickup if every other week

City Compost: www.citycompost.com, 978-407-0234, service@citycompost.com

- \$13.99/month if weekly, \$7.99/month if every other week, \$3.99/pick up once a month

Project Oscar – Bring your compost to different locations around Boston – City Hall Plaza is the closest – across from Wax Museum, also one in North End, at Nazarro Parking lot on North Bennett Street (need a code to open the lid)

** = Project Oscar does not take items marked with **

What you can compost:

All food – cooked or raw **
Meat, bones **
Dairy**
Fish, shells **
Sauces & Dressings,
small amounts of oil **
Bread, Grains
Coffee Grounds, filters
Tea bags
Biodegradable café items

Nuts, spices
Paper Towels, napkins,
paper plates
Laundry Lint **(only
allowed by Bootstrap,
not City Compost)
Houseplants, Cut
Flowers
Pet Food (wet or dry)
**

Popsicle sticks,
Toothpicks, Wooden
chopsticks
Wine corks (if not
plastic)

NO Plastic Bags,
Tissues, Plastic, Fruit
stickers, paper

COUNCILLOR ED FLYNN VISIT:

Ed Flynn attended to answer questions on neighborhood priorities. He agreed that more needs to be done in the Mass/Cass area. Issues of homelessness, sanitation, safety are of concern.

Many of those in the area have come to Boston for services because Boston offers more support, but many are from outside of Boston. Hoping that Governor Baker can help to decentralize the services. The Mass/Cass 2.0 committee meets twice a week to discuss the issues and work towards resolutions.

Some possibilities are to reopen Long Island (waiting for Quincy to clear the rebuilding of the bridge), possibly use Shattuck Hospital, get other towns/cities involved in providing services.

Question was raised about the possibility of using the Convention Center as temporary housing for the homeless or those recovering from opioid addiction.

BUTCHERS SHOP

Applying to upgrade liquor license to include all alcohol. Abutters Meeting Thursday, October 15th.

OTHER ITEMS:

Love your Block --- clean up in the South End --- will be held casually on Nov 21st.

Early Voting will begin this weekend (October 17th). Please consider voting early.

All those who renew their membership or become a new member of ESNA will be entered into raffle for one of 10 gift cards.

NEXT MEETING: December 8th, 7pm by Zoom (link to be sent closer to date)