

Union Square Neighborhood Council - Second Meeting January 3, 2018

Attendance

USNC Voting Members:

Mike Firestone, Ben Bradlow, Rachel Weil, Joanne Berry, Michele Hanson, Andrea Lizama, Erik Neu, Bill Cavellini, Ann Camara, Pennie Taylor, Afruza Akther, Tori Antonino, Ganesh Uprety

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Neighborhood Resident Members: 15

Co-Facilitators: Rachel Weil, Bill Cavellini

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - o Agreement to participation read by Ann Camara
 - o Rachel welcomed the group and led introductions
2. Public Comment
 - o Parking in residential areas- US2 hasn't given a straight answer as to how parking will be configured. Hoping we can push them and the city for more clarity.
 - o Joanne- Motion to introduce an item to CBA. Maintenance and snow shoveling prior to and after development of land.
 1. DPW should take care of it- still city owned
 2. We need a map of who owns what- US2 will never own the majority of the parcels adjacent to sidewalk
 - o Defining area of interest- Will the neighborhood council's purview be narrowly defined around CBA or will it be more broadly defined to zoning.
 1. Will be determined in the committee structure
 2. Difference between isolated zoning issues and the full zoning code as it applies to union square.
 - o There should be a communications plan in place sooner rather than later
 1. Will be in the open meeting law discussion and communications committee report back
 - o Assembly Row zoning meeting postponed but we should keep an eye on it.
3. Upcoming Union Square Permits, Development Items
 - o Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency – Bill Cavellini- Where is US2 in the process of filing? Is it possible they're filing for a waiver? They are likely already in the process of producing a report on the environmental impact of their development.
 1. This is the last regulatory step aside from design review that US2 must pass

2. Ben Bradlow- Motion to establish a working group to determine where US2 is in that process
 1. Michele Hanson seconds
 2. Mike Firestone this could be categorized under built environment committee
 3. Ben Bradlow- Establishing a working group will be more expedient
 4. Michele Hanson would like to participate in the working group. Joanne Berry would like to participate in the working group.
 5. MEPA process is split into factors that are state jurisdictional and non-state jurisdictional. This level of an issue requires all hands on deck. Expected to be filed this month. Should set up education settings to allow people to make environmental comments while embracing those in the community with particular expertise.
 6. Ben Bradlow - Motion to table discussion until after built environment committee discussion.
 1. Michele hanson seconds
- o Community Development Special Permit – Ensure contingencies are fulfilled as development continues
4. Committee Description Drafting Report Back
 - o Built Environment Committee
 1. Presentation
 2. Discussion
 1. Tori-May make sense to split zoning into its own committee
 1. Ben Bradlow- It would be feasible to keep it in one committee. Zoning is passed, matter of monitoring if plans are consistent.
 2. Wig- zoning will almost certainly be changed
 2. Ben- Motion to form a working group to focus on the MEPA process
 1. Bill seconds
 2. Vote- unanimous “ayes”
 3. Resolution
 1. Joanne Berry, Michele Hanson to head MEPA working group
 - o Outreach & Communications Committee
 1. Presentation
 2. Discussion
 1. Erik Neu- Inbound alignment of releases from the city
 2. Joanne- Include current and future businesses (ie those moving into US2 development)

3. Mike Firestone- Authority of the USNC is tied up in engagement of the community. Particularly while we're new. We should determine a date to make a release updating folks on what we've done so far.
4. Important to determine how communications intersects with other committees- need to get people out for MEPA discussions
5. Civic media- MIT and Emerson looking for project ideas for the spring.
6. Pennie Taylor- What tools can we build to create community understanding of the process and serve as a role model for other neighborhood councils
7. Joanne Berry- can we develop a timeline for the creation of the committee including an education session on MEPA?
 1. Rachel- Allow the MEPA working group to meet and propose a way to incorporate the communications committee.

3. Resolution

1. Ben Bradlow – Moves that we form the committee
 1. Michele Hanson seconds
 2. Unanimous “ayes”
 3. What is the role of nonvoting members in the committees?
 1. Volunteer.
 4. Secretary to post on the web site that committee has been formed and that they should contact for inclusion
 1. Secretary should sit on or chair the committee
2. Need to create a membership form, Members will need to maintain
 1. Joanne volunteers to do so

o Community Benefits Agreement Committee

1. Presentation
2. Discussion
3. Resolution
 1. Mike Firestone- Suggest that feedback be reviewed and proposal presented.
 1. Move forward with the process described in the CBA Committee proposal on a volunteer basis without yet forming a defined committee.
 2. Ben Bradlow- move to table the proposal but to move forward creating the committee
 1. Bill seconds
 1. Vote - Unanimous “ayes”

- o Articles of Incorporation Committee
 1. Presentation
 2. Discussion
 1. Motion to approve Mike Firestone as primary drafter in consideration of the availability of these drafts to the public
 1. Does this mean draft will be available on the 7th, 72 hours prior to the meeting on the 10th
 2. We can put the item on the agenda, review the draft in meeting.
 2. Issue of form of liability- are board members individually liable or is there a corporate entity.
 3. Definition of “large-scale” and “developer” needs more detail
 1. Ben Bradlow- Move to table discussion until we have a draft letter for review
 1. Ann Camara seconded
 2. Unanimous “ayes”
 3. Resolution
 - o Expectation of Committees
 1. Committee to acquire materials, review, come up with a recommendation to the USNC for feedback, incorporate feedback, approve.
5. Meeting Logistics
- o Rachel Weil - Motion to limit discussion to time and space
 1. Joanne seconds
 - o Scheduling
 1. Jacob Kramer proposes January 10
 - o Spaces
 1. Canopy Space - Michele Hanson expressed approval of the space
 1. Tori Antonino to determine availability of the space on January 10
 - o Media Coverage
 1. SCATV is still working out logistics, Gary Trujillo will take responsibility for bringing a camera and recording USNC meetings.
 - o Inclusionary Logistics (Translation, child care)
6. Open meeting Laws
- o Tabled
7. Adjourn