

Union Square Neighborhood Council - Meeting December 5, 2018

Attendance

USNC Voting Members:

Ben Baldwin, Bill Cavellini, Ann Camara, Pennie Taylor, Rachel Weil, Michèle Hansen, Mike Firestone, Jacob Kramer, Erik Neu, Ben Bradlow, Tori Antonino

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Neighborhood Resident Members: 11 total

Co-Facilitators: Rachel Weil, Andy Greenspon

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Rachel opened the meeting and led introductions
2. Approval of Nov 8 and Nov 20 minutes
 - a. November 8 - Suggestion that we put off a vote until next meeting. Pennie
 - i. Vote: 9 yes, 0 no 0 abstention
 - b. November 20 - Bill move to adopt minutes with one amendment
 - i. Section 2. d. i. "within 48 hours" instead of "within 48 minutes"
 - ii. Jacob seconds
 - iii. Vote: 8 yes, 1 abstention
 - iv. November 20 minutes approved
3. Public Comment
 - a. Affordable Housing Organizing Committee recommendation for the zoning overhaul. Copies passed out. Deadline for public comment is December 13.
 - b. Somerville CC, City of Somerville, Encore Casino info session for jobs for Somerville residents. Important for Negotiation Committee to focus on local, minority and women hiring.
 - c. Meeting minutes should be a summary and the votes taken so it is easy to read quickly
 - d. Not a big turnout for [bylaws info session](#). Desire to look at Clean and Open Elections Task Force opinion on rank choice voting, cumulative voting.
 - e. Agenda item submitted last week did not make it to today's agenda
 - f. Support for current voting method
 - g. Seeking context for why - not how- board voted for 15 vote ballots in election/
4. Proposals for meeting minutes
 - a. 11/20 minutes could serve as a model
 - b. Summary fashion more challenging. An issue addressing public comment questions.
 - c. Support for Simon's suggestion that minutes be a recording of motions, seconds, and vote results. Except for public comment.
 - i. Bill- Motion that each council board meeting minutes record the motions, seconds, and vote results after a short summary of the discussion related to that motion and that the public comment period record comments in the best possible way
 1. Pennie
 2. Vote:11 yes, 0 no

5. Report back from Dec 1 Public Meeting
 - a. Word for word notes from meeting have been distributed to the board.
 - b. Talk of concerns that have come up again and again.
 - c. Talk of representation in elections and if that is supported by the bylaws
 - d. Community input for the wording that will be on the ballot in January referendum on the bylaws
6. Bylaws - Voting Discussion
 - a. Board voted that December 15 would be the deadline to send out final version of bylaws for vote by the community. Another meeting may have to take place before that date. Or the board could vote to postpone Dec 15 deadline
 - b. Support for sticking to December 15 deadline
 - c. Ask that all board members review the meeting prior to making a decision
 - i. Minutes from the meeting were received 48 hours prior to this meeting
 - d. Support for multi candidate ranked choice voting as a reasonable compromise
 - e. Support for existing voting procedure
 - f. Complicated voting systems are a deterrent to accessibility
 - g. We haven't heard a lot of support for any voting structure
 - h. Support for ranked choice voting if it would make a difference to those unhappy with the way the board operates
 - i. Support for ranked choice voting when there is plenty of time to explain it to the electorate
 - j. Different types of seats complicate ranked choice voting- have to run separate elections for different eligibilities
 - i. The only thing that simplifies the election is having fewer than 15 votes
 - k. Mechanism for ranked choice voting outlined by Andy Greenspon
 - l. Disagreeing groups should come together to discuss fears about voting procedure options
 - m. Many ways to ensure varying degrees of diversity
 - n. How many people are open to adopting rank choice into this year's USNC election
 - i. 6
 - ii. 3 committed to not incorporating changes
 - iii. 2 abstentions
 - o. Motion to reconsider the vote on voting system
 - i. Michèle- Seconds
 - ii. Vote: 5 yes, 6 opposed
 - iii. Motion does not pass
 - p. Michèle- Motion to put back into the permanent bylaws place original language allowing for a member of USNC public the option to be a co-facilitator
 - i. Bill - second
 - ii. Vote: 10 yes, 1 abstention
 - q. Motion to approve the current final bylaws, subject to a review by the Bylaws Committee that can be submitted in writing.
 - i. Jacob seconds
 - ii. Role Call vote:
 - iii. Michèle - yes

- iv. Mike Firestone- yes
 - v. Bill Cavellini- yes
 - vi. Rachel- yes
 - vii. Ben Baldwin yes
 - viii. Ben Bradlow- yes
 - ix. Pennie-yes
 - x. Jacob - yes
 - xi. Ann camara- yes
 - xii. Tori- abstain
 - xiii. Erik- no
 - xiv. Motion passes 9 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain
7. Membership vote on amendment to interim bylaws
- a. Schedule change to reflect a later timetable with December 15 being the final date to send out finalized bylaws and January 5th being the last date for a referendum and February 3rd being the last possible date for an election
 - i. This makes sure there is a proper election in January whether or not the bylaws referendum passes.
 - ii. $\frac{2}{3}$ vote required
 - iii. Motion to approve amendment
 - iv. seconded
 - v. Vote: 16 yes, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
 - vi. Motion passes
8. Motion to table rest of discussion until a later meeting
- a. Jacob seconds
 - b. Zoning is due next week, important to discuss.
 - c. Motion withdrawn
9. BOA Finance Committee update on negotiations - 12/11
- a. There will be a presentation by the USNC and by the developer on Tuesday night BOA Finance Committee meeting.
10. BEC Update
- a. Zoning report is a working document incorporating input from many community members
 - b. Seeking to include Allen Street and others in redevelopment of Union Square
 - c. Tori to circulate a draft
11. Public Comment
- a. Members of the public were told on 12/1 meeting that they would have until the 12/12 to comment on voting methods
 - b. There are many voting methods that are easy to explain. Cumulative voting is the way to go
 - c. Thank you to the USNC for coming to a Main Streets meeting. How can business owners sign up, what kind of information can we spread so that people have an opportunity to campaign.
 - d. Disappointed the vote was made tonight. Bylaws Committee had been under the impression a vote would be made next week
 - e. Union United supports 15 votes for 15 candidates because the bylaws issue has distracted the community from the real issue of the CBA. Union United is not a single issue organization, it supports all the topics that have come up in CBA discussions.

12. Executive Session to discuss strategy and tactics for further negotiations
 - a. Ben Bradlow- motion to move into executive session
 - i. Bill- seconds
 - ii. Unanimous yes