

Union Square Neighborhood Council - Meeting January 23, 2019

Attendance

USNC Voting Members:

Ben Baldwin, Bill Cavellini, Ann Camara, Michèle Hansen, Ben Bradlow, Rachel Weil, Tori Antonino, Erik Neu

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Neighborhood Resident Members: 6 total

Co-Facilitators: Rachel Weil, Bill Cavellini

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Rachel chaired the meeting and led off introductions.
2. Approval of 1/2/2019 minutes
 - a. Some changes made to January 2 minutes around the election committee. Minutes could not be passed due to lack of quorum.
 - b. Vote on minutes approval: 7 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention
3. Public Comment
 - a. Father Richard- Low turnout for bylaws - I think we need $\frac{2}{3}$ of the membership to make a change to the bylaws.
 - i. Very little information coming out of CBA negotiations. Unclear if we are making progress with the developer.
 - ii. D2 layout changes
 - b. Andy Greenspon- Question about when there will be a public CBA update since the Board of Aldermen finance update. Need this to pass with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the community
 - i. I want current board to be ready to change things over once election is determined.
 - ii. Royal Hospitality support- Does anyone know where their lease stands and when they will be displaced?
 - c. Simon Hill- D2 alternative design meeting with Sarah Lewis comment
 - d. Wig Zamore- Both sides of the Mystic River are in opportunity zones, often flood, and will require work across municipal boundaries.
4. Election outreach planning
 - a. Candidates are expected to do as much outreach as they feel is necessary
 - b. O&C Committee will distribute generic flyer materials to candidates, existing board, and a select group of the membership that has indicated a desire to help with outreach.
 - c. Benny Wheat had a zone-based outreach plan that we can base outreach off of.
 - d. Facebook Event will be put together for both days.
5. MEPA response to DEIR
 - a. DEIR was published by developer/consultant on current date and distributed to anyone who made MEPA comments. There is still an opportunity for change
 - b. No work appears to have been done by developer's consultants on their plans to deal with environmental issues on the site.
 - c. BEC will review DEIR at their Monday meeting

6. Royal Hospitality - displacement pending
 - a. Royal Hospitality Services bought the building and land in 2002 for \$2.1 million, now assessed at \$4.2m. Located in D3 block - ~10 year window during which changes could occur. They are contracted for laundry services by the Encore casino.
 - b. This is going to keep happening with brick and mortar businesses in Union Square. USNC needs a long term strategy to deal with it.
 - c. Examples of support include: Asking or meeting with Somerville OSPCD about finding a new location for Royal Hospitality to move to, attending the BOA Finance Committee meeting during which Royal Hospitality workers will be asked to speak
 - d. Motion language: The Union Square Neighborhood Council supports Royal Hospitality Services workers in their efforts to keep their 350 blue-collar jobs in Somerville.
 - i. Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain
7. 1/28 meeting with Sarah Lewis
 - a. Meeting around underground parking structures on the D2 block. The Built Environment Committee was approached by JT Scott to participate in this meeting.
 - b. Sarah Lewis is no longer planning the whole meeting for the 28th, but is available if we want to talk with her.
 - c. Two peer reviews of the underground parking structure plan have been done. They differ by \$5-7million, but the cost will still be high. Meeting with Sarah on Monday, prior to a larger meeting, may give us a better way to strategize.
 - d. This isn't just about D2- it's about every parcel in the Opportunity Zone
 - e. Rachel will attend the meeting
8. BEC Update
 - a. Tuesday Jan 29 - Shelton Parsons Open Space Amendment public hearing.
 - b. Wednesday Jan 30 GLX meeting
 - c. Thursday Jan 31 Condo conversion ordinance hearing
 - d. Resident petition for Beacon St. - Residents don't want to see whole length of Beacon St developed. A petition has been circulated. It is the only feedback the city has received intending to limit development.
 - e. *Somervision 2040* USNC Representation- Ann Camara and Tori Antonino attended the first meeting. They are not revisiting things that have been approved in other major documents. They are revisiting some goals.
 - i. Union Square Main Streets is participating in the process
 - f. Ann Camara will represent USNC in the steering committee
9. Public Comment
 - a. Wig Zamore- *Somervision* meetings – during the last round there were about 50 meetings. Decisions are made at the end of meetings, so it's good to make sure someone is there at the end. Manufacturing doesn't have to pay real estate taxes
 - i. Need to start thinking beyond local- Somerville provides excess housing for the region.
 - b. Gary Trujillo- community center / affordable housing plans being developed along Charlestown Street between Allen St and Merriam Street - Meeting on March 15 (tentative), probably at city hall. Being led by SCC, which intends to present their plan to us within the next few months.

- c. Jessica Eshleman- YIMBY panel discussion at Greentown Labs Feb 13 3pm.
- 10. Executive Session to discuss strategy and tactics for further negotiations
 - a. Michèle- motion to move into executive session
 - i. Bill- seconds
 - ii. Unanimous yes