

Union Square Neighborhood Council - Meeting February 6, 2019

Attendance

USNC Voting Members:

Ben Baldwin, Bill Cavellini, Ann Camara, Michèle Hansen, Ben Bradlow, Andy Greenspon, Paola Massoli, Afruza Akther, Pennie Taylor

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Neighborhood Resident Members: 6 total

Co-Facilitators: Bill Cavellini, Rachel Weil

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Bill chaired the meeting and led off introductions, welcoming new board members.
2. Public Comment
 - a. Wig Zamore- Draft EIR- 2 weeks until comment deadline ends. Urge people who want to make paper comments to do so as soon as possible.
 - i. There needs to be someone organizing comments.
 - b. Simon Hill- The Sarah Lewis D2 meeting hasn't been confirmed for the 12th. The Greentown Labs/Somerville YIMBY event is on the 13th.
 - i. Bill Cavellini- The finance committee Monday 11th 6pm, Sarah Lewis presentation on D2 will be Tuesday the 12th at 6pm at Public Safety Building
 - c. Gary Trujillo- There has been a group led by SCC, hoping to have considered a plan to use area along Charlestown St between Allen St and Target for a community center, YMCA, affordable housing. They want to present to the USNC in the next few months
 - i. I'd like to find some way to increase the general community representation at USNC Board meetings. Possibly eliminating the public comment restriction. Interested in talking with folks in attendance about this.
 - d. Jessica Eschleman- Congratulations to the new board, Union Square Main Streets is excited to work with USNC this coming year
3. Approval of 1/23/2019 minutes
 - a. Discussion on what is suitable for inclusion in minutes
 - b. Pennie- motion to approve minutes
 - i. Ben Bradlow- seconded
 - c. Vote on minutes approval: 7 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions
4. Appreciation of Board members leaving the Board
 - a. Review of the work over the last year done by exiting 2018 board members, comments from board members.
5. Timing of selection of officers for the new Board and discussion of future meeting days and times
 - a. Permanent bylaws call for election of officers in the second meeting of the newly elected board
 - b. Recent Doodle poll shows Tuesday as best day
 - c. Pennie- Motion to have the next meeting Wednesday the 20th
 - i. Paola- second
 - ii. Vote: 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

6. Request a community meeting on the DEIR
 - a. 2 weeks left to submit comments on the DEIR.
 - b. Certain sections have not changed at all since the waiver was denied. US2 can be forced to edit.
 - c. Andy- Motion to send an email tonight or tomorrow, send to board for approval tomorrow
 - i. Ben Baldwin- second
 - ii. Vote: 9 yes, 0 no
 - iii. Bill Cavellini volunteers to write the email
7. Conflict on Feb 12 between Ordinance Committee & Sarah Lewis D2 Parking Update meetings - decision on how to respond to both
 - a. There is no longer a conflict.
 - b. Report on Built Environment Committee meeting with Sarah Lewis. minutes to be disseminated soon.
8. Progress on US2 Negotiations
 - a. Bill gave an update on negotiations progress:
 - i. Full discussion of asks on sustainability. Passive house application in high rise housing is ruled out on D2. It would diminish rentable square footage
 - ii. This coming Monday(2/11), SCC and POAH representatives will be present at negotiations for a discussion of affordable housing.
 - b. Request for a full update to the membership- must be limited to non-strategic items
 - c. Erik Neu- Motion for the Negotiating Committee to put together a paper, similar to the one Mike Firestone wrote prior to start of negotiations, outlining topic areas and progress made.
 - i. Andy Greenspon- second
 - ii. Vote: 9 in favor, 0 opposed
9. Public Comment
 - a. Gary Trujillo- Please send me details on upcoming meetings. Submitting agenda item for a future meeting- reinvigorate the Outreach & Communications Meeting.
 - i. Want to open up meeting time to comments from the general public, outside of public comment.
 - b. Simon Hill- Would be helpful to put a framework into USNC Public so people can read it
 - c. Wig- Volunteer groups should be encouraged to do things in their best way
 - i. Somervision 2040 is starting up, may or may not conform with zoning
 - ii. Land transfer doesn't make sense until MEPA and other approvals are in hand
 - iii. Royal Hospitality- want to protect the jobs more than the location
 - iv. MEPA and environment- there is disclosure of history, and now plan moving forward for contaminants.
 - v. There are better underground parking estimators than the ones used by the city, such as Walker. Boynton Yards has 2 underground garages planned and approved, and has similar water table conditions.
 - vi. Elevator needed on both sides of the tracks off of Prospect Street

- vii. Energy- IECC 2015 and 2018- MA is one of 4 states to have adopted it. This is the regulatory framework for building energy use. Sustainability is more about transportation than buildings.
- viii. Affordable housing in union square is going to need high quality air filtration

10. Executive Session to discuss strategy and tactics for further negotiations

- a. Michèle- motion to move into executive session
 - i. Pennie- seconds
 - ii. Unanimous yes