

## Union Square Neighborhood Council - Meeting November 8, 2018

### Introduction:

Board members

Public

Austin from Tufts here for study from ORS

Simon Hill

Fr. Richard

Gary Trujillo

Van Hardy

Rene Scott

Cosmo

Sarah from Tufts

Andrea from Tufts

3 others (names not recorded)

Rachel reviews goals of USNC

Andy helping co-facilitate

### Approval of Minutes:

10-11

Bill: move to approve min, Joanne second

10-25

Bill: substitute minutes to what Bill proposed tonight, Jacob/Michèle second second

Votes: 9 approve, 3 abstain

Andy: did not see the corrections he sent to Ben earlier this week

Bill: developed a better appreciation of scribing those minutes, there were instances completely wrong. Gary reviewing/editing minutes before going out to minutes. Review the minutes presented tonight. If not comfortable, pushed it to move the vote back.

Tori: just getting them now, would like time to go over this before approving the minutes.

Could have discussion regarding the second motion of taking the minutes down.

Michèle: agrees with Tori, should be taken down

Jacob: since video is taken we should move on those minutes

Ann: should have time to read Bill's minutes, etc

(Mike arrives)

Joanne:

Rachel:

Mike: synopsis of topic of discussion, not helpful that

Joanne: motion table approval to next week to approve 10-25 minutes, Tori second

Unanimous yes

Should be a synopsis (Mike, Michèle, Jacob)

Bill: bring up previous motion, from the time the minutes are submitted to Ben to the public. Jacob seconds.

Problem has been Ben Baldwin submits minutes to Gary, Gary makes amendments before posting to the public

Michèle: USNC should be posted after board approves,

Andy: in the bylaws that this is not allowed

Rachel: I do not believe we need to vote on this. All agree

Public Comment:

Gary - apologizes for amending the notes. States he is wrong and appreciates the resolution.

Greg - efforts to schedule bylaws vote early enough so election can be held before christmas. Approves

Rene - bylaws should be reviewed and approved before the election? Board should vote for that schedule. Wondering how co-facilitators are selected.

Rachel - used to put out a call for the public to co-facilitate, would welcome any interested and if a formal call should be put out we can do that

Andy - interim bylaws. Current permanent bylaws would only be board members.

Rene - cofaciliators no procedure is defined

Simon - congrats to Tori for Somerville Times. Video only covers 40min of 2hours and 45minute meeting. Not appropriate for Union United to be here as a pressure group, appropriate to be here as individuals. A pressure group action will get a reaction.

#4

Rachel introduces bylaws:

3.3.3.1 & 3.3.3.9 - concern that interim bylaws had ambiguity of when board lost powers for vote. Given rushed timeline of bylaws, establishes last dates for bylaw referendum and new board election. If bylaws are not decided, this would ensure the board and elections are supposed to act.

Jacob - point of clarification: just for discussion, not for an amendment (needs 2 weeks notice). Andy - correct

Bill - explain whether the provision of the interim bylaws which allows an election of the board if  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the bylaws are not approved. Does that change?

Andy - no. just resets the date structure better. It would allow continuity.

Bill - there is no date, the board serves for a year, that is why Dec 6th and Dec 15th were assumed. Andy is inserting a date when there is no date.

Andy - the reason he proposed this is because

Mike - really talking about 3.3.3.9. The trouble is there is no answer because the sentences insinuate different things. End of 2018 permanent bylaws are proposed. Idea that we are under a time constraint is clear. Bylaw referendum and voting is all confusing in the amendment.

Andy - in 3.3.3.9 is currently amended by this board.

Jacob - feel like the extension of the month is good. No problems with that. Only caveat is people are like if people use that as "the board is using their own power to extend their term". It is very clear the way we have conducted our business is exterior problems. Maybe clear we should have

Joanne - have open meetings for people to get the meetings

Michèle -

Joanne - bylaws transparent, would be good to engage

Jacob - extension is an opportunity

Mike - discussing where 1-30-2019 came from? Other than we are going to run up into thanksgiving, christmas, new years

Andy - balance not 6months and being fair. Welcome anyone to motion substitutes.

Justification - there had to be enough time to campaign in between the referendum announcement, etc.

Mike - idea is: when do we vote on the permanent bylaws, sets a latest date 1-26-2019, can be earlier.

Bill - there is a problem for just being 2 weeks specifies categories people can run in, etc. people are going to be asked to submit their bylaws. Should discuss 3-4 weeks between bylaws approval and elections

Jacob - initially schedule referendum on 11-17. Conduct open meeting on the 17th. Have the bylaws meeting on the 15th. On the 3rd week of January have the elections. Rejected on the 15th can still campaign on the bylaws.

Michèle - all of these take much longer than anyone takes to do. If we do not pass the bylaws, we are voting on another interim board.

Joanne - Bill interjects to clarify that it would be under the interim bylaws but not the founding board. Weekend after Thanksgiving be an open meeting. By the end of December have bylaws approved.

Andy - this amendment language sets a hard stop but suggests it can be later. Moving it earlier goes into the holidays and that can be a problem.

Tori - having a membership discussion of the bylaws like we did during the presentation of the bylaws

Jacob - obligated to present them in the bylaws. Because there were discussions for the membership to keep their eye out for the 17th, but not opposed to putting a hard stop at 2-9th.

Ann - needs to end it at 1-30-2019.

Bill - supports what Ann said.

\ Bill - have open meeting on 11-17. Latest we vote on the board be 1-30. Jacob second.

Ann - agree with Joanne. The 17th is too soon.

Joanne - suggests the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Jacob - open meeting the 1st, 15th of december,

absolute latest date for anyone to vote would be 2-3. Bill accepts the 3rd as the amendment.

Bill - exact wording

Joanne - open meeting, vote by end of year, election 1-30.

Bill - rejects motion

Jacob - Feb 2nd so that is an extra weekend for the election

Michèle - 1 day of elections? No not decided yet.

Tori - push back on the 17th for a date to review the bylaws. Did not realize we decided on the bylaws, do not remember coming to a conclusion. We need to wrap that up before presenting to the community. The 17th would be premature when discussing the bylaws. Would ask for the 1st or the last week of November. Do not agree with the 17th.

Michèle stepped out.

Vote: open meeting on the 17th. Community vote on the 15th. With goal of what is

elected.

Mike: 4 dates. Alternative that keeps within

12-1 public meeting

12-15 noticed of bylaws

1-5 bylaws

2-3 final election

Joanne: point of clarification

Andy: can vote on this timeline, just need to vote on the amendment next meeting

Substitute Motion Michèle returns:

Joanne seconds

timeline Mike proposed.

12-1 public meeting

By 12-15 noticed of bylaws

By 1-5 bylaws

By 2-3 final election (for the amendment that will be voted separately)

7 approve

4 oppose

2-3 is substituted into the amendment. Mike: New proposed amendment should be included.

Andy clarifies that the entire community should be clarified. All 1-30th is replaced with 2-3rds.

Amendment sent to broader community

Joanne make motion. Jacob second

Should be very clear sent out to community. Rachel will send out so 2 weeks from now it will be voted on.

7 approve

1 oppose

3 abstain

This was a combination of 4,5,6,7.

Outreach

Pennie and Ben Baldwin met to brainstorm met to provide flyer to circulate. No strategy at this point.

Jacob - communicate timeline to outreach committee

3 major things: days agreed upon.

Joanne - emails via listserves, door to door.

Board Election

Rachel: put out call for elections committee. Can not be running for the board. Opens floor to anyone who can provide insight on the elections committee

Andy - On elections committee: are you allowed to campaign for a candidate if you are on the elections committee.

Bill - not allowed to campaign while performing tasks

Jacob - members of election committee have to be US members?

Bill - in the bylaws defined as being in the US member. Last year that was not the practice. Wig and Fred

Michèle - clarification, they Wig and Fred. were not on the committee they were

just volunteers.

Mike - it should be an amendment that volunteers who do not live in the neighborhood can be solicited by the committee members.

Mike - "from its ranks" least helpful language.

Andy - committee members can be the only people to vote. Ambiguous that committees and volunteers can not support candidates on the day of

Bill: propose deadline of submission for the committee, currently November 12th

Bill: motion December 15th submission is the final date. Michèle second. Joanne clarifies Bill meant January 6th instead, Bill accepts. Jacob wants committee up and running before then, Bill accepts then proposes December 22nd to be the final date for volunteers.

Tori: clarifies volunteers or committee. Bill confirms committee.

9 approve

2 abstain

BEC

Is planning on meeting Mon or Tues for land zoning meetings. 11-5-18 JT chaired confirmation and appointments for planning board

Gerry was not re-appointed

Rebecca and Mike were re-appointed

Discussion was very good, Neidergang felt good because the mayor did not submit these reappointments. Planning board becoming more independent body, respect and reflect the community feedbacks. At this point the board has been taking dictation from the city. The committee needs to be encouraged and engaged in the planning process.

Tori will be asking them to come to public meetings to find out what is occurring at public meetings.

Michèle: clarification only 3 members were up?

Tori - update: Gerry and Joe were not re-appointed. Kevin left. There are 3-4 seats vacant. Planning board will be serving until replacements are appointed.

Jacob - thank you for the report. This could be something that we have a voice in the process. Maybe the council could put someone up, at the very least can weigh in on someone's candidacy.

Bill - will support anyone on the council to apply for the planning board. Would like to say something about the planning board: they are appointed by the mayor. Has advisory power when it comes to zoning but does not pass zoning. Takes  $\frac{2}{3}$  for BOA to pass zoning. Not advisory, limited on influence. PB determines whether a permit applies to zoning. Rely heavily on planning staff (hired by the mayor). Two inputs that go into planning come from the mayor. Have an ear propped from George Proakis and Dan Bartman. Grant special permits. Operate within zoning. With CDSPs they submit conditions. Major way they influence is in the facades, etc. planning board has zero authority on equity, etc.

Tori - BOA asking Rebecca to use SomerVision, etc. Tell her in the zoning how they want planning board to behave in order to handle responsibilities appropriately.

Michèle - was the land use committee up for re-appointment

Bylaws:

Erik and Bill made changes, need to schedule a bylaws committee meeting to write up

another document before the public meeting about the bylaws.

Gary - bylaws committee resolved to permit discussion on the bylaws via electronic communication, does not conflict with meeting. Wants to make sure everyone is ok with that.

Rachel - creating a forum? Gary says yes.

Unanimous consent gary can set up a way for people to communicate

Public Comment:

Rene - AHOC zoning overhaul for affordable housing. Deadline is 11-26th and BOA 12-13 for public comment regarding zoning. BOA has 90 days to act on the zoning.

Simon - land transfer video, end of the video. See interaction between BOA and city solicitor. Getting advice independent of the mayor and they are considered outside sources.

Next Date for Board Meeting:

Jacob: 20th - bylaws and zoning.

BEC recommends to vote on for the zoning overhaul in addition to AHOC. (a letter)

Executive Session:

Bill motions to go into executive session discuss strategy Jacob seconds.

Unanimous approve