

MINUTES

Highland Park Neighborhood Coalition, **November 14, 2023**

The meeting was chaired by Mercy Bell and attended by 41 people*. A Hybrid meeting, 20 people attended in person at HYCC and 21 people joined via zoom.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) The Roxbury Action Project (RAP) presented its plans for restoring the historic African Orthodox Church (50 Cedar Street). (see conceptual plan at https://www.hpncwebsite.com/files/ugd/e6f1e5_cdb0832b61534ca8bd43dc8a867abf41.pdf)
A discussion, but no vote followed a Q & A.
- 2) The meeting discussed the Boston Planning & Development Agency's (BPDA's) recent efforts to overhaul the Boston Zoning Code. Many neighborhood associations (including Roxbury Neighborhood Council) are frustrated at the lack of neighborhood representation in this Article 80 revision process.

The Boston City Council held a hearing on October 27 - CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCESSIBILITY HEARING to address this matter. Rodney Singleton and four other Boston neighborhood representatives were chosen to be on a panel to speak at this hearing. The panelists have since created a letter addressed to Mayor Wu, *expressing broad-based community objection to the current level and quality of BRA/BPDA community engagement and reform.*

While not having the time to review each sentence of this letter, the HPNC voted to support – in principal – the letter to Mayor Wu. (for - 24, against – 2, abstained – 3).

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Highland Park Project Review Committee – Joan Seamster. The PRC will hold its monthly meeting at HYCC Tuesday, November 28, 6:30-8PM

Highland Park Community Land Trust – Jon Ellertson. The HPCLT will hold its Annual meeting via zoom at 2:30pm on Sunday, December 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Officer O'Rourke reminded residents that if they have any questions about illegal or threatening events in Highland Park, they can contact him directly at michael.orourke@pd.boston.gov

Kate Phelps, HPNC Co-Secretary reminded residents that the HPNC Steering Committee will face turnover of some of its members in March 2024. New residents interested in serving on the HPNC Steering Committee should contact hpncsecretary@gmail.com to discuss what is required.

Stephen Keyes invited residents to an Open House at his newly constructed Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on Thursday, November 16 at 10am. He is hoping Boston Mayor Wu and Mass State Governor Healy will be in attendance, as part of their support for building ADU's as of right.

RAFFLE: Malcolm Wynn (RAP) won the \$25 gift certificate. (That's what we call wynn-win)

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 7-8:15pm

ATTENDEES: Mercy Bell, David Black, John Conaghan, Dan Cruz, Jon Ellertson, Dayo Fadelu, Randy Foote, Linda Freeman, Simone Gaines, Tim Gosier, Matt Henzy (Henzy Consulting/Rap), Eunice Hurd, Jimmie R?, Kevin Corey Jordan (Chynah Tyler's office), ? (Clr. Tania Fernandez Anderson's office), Steven Keyes, John Kyper, Maggie Levine, Jennifer MacDonald, James Maher, Melissa Mills, Officer Michael O'Rourke (BPD), Lee Peters, Kate Phelps, Marjorie Powell, Bob Purinton, Christopher Quéva, Sandrine Quéva, Mark Schafer, Joan Seamster, Andrew Shelburne, Holly Shepherd, Juan Skeens, Rodney Singleton, Evan Smith, José Soares, Mandy Townsend, Masha Vodyanyk, Judi Walker, Edwinna Wynn (RAP), Malcolm Wynn (RAP)