

Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA)
Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 18, 2009
45 Upton Street #1

7:00 P.M.

The Vice President, H. Norman Knickle, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were: David Bonilla, Kevin Cole, Don Fleming, H. Norman Knickle, Mary Bottella Knickle, Bill McIntosh, Lisa Rindler, Beverly Sky, and Corrie Yablon.

1. Mela Restaurant Proposal

Mela Restaurant presented their drawings and proposal to convert its windows to sliding glass windows, to eliminate the wrought iron door, and expand the restaurant into the doorway. Reception was positive to opening the windows to the street. There were concerns regarding possible noise to neighbors above within the building, and in adjacent buildings. There were also concerns regarding the exterior trim paint color; it was thought that the current color white did not blend in with the remainder of the neighborhood. A more historical color choice was suggested. The Mela proposal will be presented to the neighborhood association at the 9/8 meeting. Mela was asked to notify 50 Union Park and adjacent buildings for comment on potential noise issues. Mela also indicated it would work with the UPNA on noise issues and the color of the exterior.

2. Pho Republique

The owners of Pho Republique are selling the restaurant to Bombay Group. Bombay is asking UPNA for support of the purchase of Pho, and for the transfer of the liquor license to Bombay. A letter will be drafted indicating the support of the transfer.

3. Fundraising and Activities Committee Report

- a) The Buttery was chosen as a potential site for a fundraising event for the Park. UPNA would pay the bar bill and Buttery would provide appetizers. Guests would be asked to donate funds to the park. Potential dates would be a Wed. or Thurs. in October.
- b) Letter writing campaign was discussed.
- c) Crime tour with Jamie Fox. 10/4 at 5 pm. 6 stops, last stop would be Liberty Hotel, drinks. Open to all of South End, estimated \$30-40 per ticket.
- d) Ice cream social. 9/26 Emack & Bolio's – in the park. Make your own sundae.
- e) Evening in the Park to follow ice cream social. 9/26. Concept – to have Park open to neighborhood all day, would appeal to different residents in the neighborhood.
- f) Young South Enders' event is being discussed.
- g) Pumpkin decorating as a fundraising event was discussed.
- h) The UPNA continues to consider potential sites for the second Saturday in December

for the holiday party.

4. Union Park Fence Restoration

The Mayor has signed the contract! A preconstruction meeting was 8/24. 120 days to complete the project as of 2 weeks ago. Needs to be finished by the end of the year.

5. Pine Street Inn Update

Article 32 (groundwater) approval received. Hope House had approval for a lodging house. PSI may need their own lodging house special use permit of variance. The PSI file is getting transferred from the ZBA to Inspectional Services Department. ISD needs to make a decision on PSI to get approval for a building permit. There is disagreement on whether PSI is building something consistent with what Hope House had already in existence. A neighborhood member hired a lawyer to object to the Pine Street project's size.

6. Crime Update

Break in at 20 Upton St. Also, the Union Park/Waltham St alley continues to be a problem. Site of increasing crime over spring and summer. 21 Union Park break in. 3 Union Park attempted break-in from the alley. Rocks thrown through window at 37 Union Park nearly hitting a child. Discussion with Eight Streets Neighborhood (other side of alley) regarding solution. UP wants to lock Waltham street access and provide keys. Some members and officers of Eight Streets Neighborhood reluctant to lock it. One tenant 68 Waltham Street does not want to lock the alley gate and wants it open. Trying to negotiate a solution. 68 Waltham said they would put a locked gate at the site.

7. Marble Tablets Upton Street and Union Park

\$200-300 raised. Will cost about \$1600 per tablet to restore. H. Norman Knickle moved and it was seconded by Bill McIntosh to allocate funds to restore both Upton St and Union Park tablets. Funds to be allocated to UP pending approval of 2 Union Park. It was unanimously approved.

8. Family Resource Section of Newsletter

In light of the influx of young families in the neighborhood the UPNA is creating a Family Resource Section of the newsletter. It will include information regarding the Boston Public Schools, local shops, culture, and parks.

9. Villa Victoria Park at Shawmut and Upton Street

Beverly Sky indicated an interest in rehabilitating the park, including refurbish soil, provide granite blocks/benches, remove chain link fence. Explore funding for this project from the city was discussed and a potential future vote.

The meeting was adjourned.