



### Frequently Asked Questions

From time to time, residents of the neighborhood have questions regarding various policies and procedures governing UPNA operations as well as decisions made by the UPNA Board and its officers. Hopefully, these responses to will clarify many of these matters:

1. What is the function of the UPNA

The UPNA serves the South End community from Tremont Street to Harrison Avenue and from Upton Street up to the alley between Union Park and Waltham Street. The UPNA interacts with city officials on behalf of the neighborhood and represents the neighborhood in various zoning issues. The UPNA participates in the South End Forum, which represents the entire South End with regard to various public works matters, including trash removal, street sweeping, plowing, parking regulations and the policy prohibiting the use of space savers.

2. How are funds raised by the UPNA spent?

The funds donated to UPNA general fund are spent to improve the neighborhood. Most notably, UPNA employs someone to clean the neighborhood streets and alleys twice a week, typically following city trash collections. In addition, UPNA maintains a special fund for tree trimming/maintenance and landscaping. The Board also contributes funds toward various other neighborhood improvements projects. Typically these represent a portion of a larger fund-raising effort, particularly when the initiative impacts only a part of the neighborhood. A significant portion of UPNA funds are used by the Activities Committee to hold various events throughout the year (e.g., UPNA Socials, Evenings in the Park, the Holiday Party, the Newcomers Party, etc.) that are not covered by sponsorships from local businesses. Finally, UPNA occasionally contributes to external initiatives, such as our annual sponsorship of a South End youth league baseball team and various cultural events in the South End. The UPNA is classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

3. What is the UPNA Club Card

The UPNA Club Card, renewed annually, extends to cardholder a variety of discounts and free items at local restaurants and other merchants. Anyone contributing to the UPNA automatically receives a card. In addition, cards are available by special arrangement when a contribution is not possible.

4. What is the difference between UPNA and FUP?

UPNA represents the entire neighborhood. FUP (Friends of Union Park) is a division of the UPNA that cares for Union Park. FUP fund-raising is separate from the general UPNA appeal and any funds donated to FUP are used exclusively toward the care of Union Park (the park, not the street). Although the UPNA and FUP accounts are not co-mingled, UPNA funds may be directed toward the care of Union Park should FUP funds be insufficient to cover the maintenance costs.

5. Who owns Union Park?

The city of Boston owns the Union Park. Through an agreement with the city, UPNA has assumed the care of the park and the city allows UPNA to control usage.

6. Where can I see the financials on UPNA and FUP?

The financials are presented at General Meetings and summaries are available on the UPNA website.

7. How do I sign up to receive e-mails concerning matters of interest to the neighborhood (e.g., parking bans and street closures) as well as ongoing social and cultural events. s t or concern to the neighborhood?

Sign up online at [upna.org](http://upna.org), click on "Mailing List," and fill-in the form.

8. What role does UPNA assume on zoning appeals filed by residents and businesses in the neighborhood?

Most proposals are presented, discussed and voted upon at the UPNA General Meetings. On occasion, if timing necessitates quicker action, UPNA will act through a vote of the Board. In these situations, the Board seeks to ensure that concerns of abutters are addressed. Yet, in its decisions and recommendations, the Board attempts to act in the interests of the neighborhood in general, which may or may not be consistent with those of individual owners and residents. In addition, input from residents is typical solicited through the messages sent to everyone on the UPNA e-mail list.

9. How is the UPNA Board selected?

The UPNA Board, comprised of no more than 15 members, is elected in January of each year by a vote taken at the General Meeting of the neighborhood. All residents and owners are permitted to participate. UPNA prefers to have broad representation of the neighborhood in terms of street and owner/renter status. After the election, the Board selects the UPNA officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary). In addition, various working committees (Activities, Zoning, and Communications, among others) are staffed with Board and non-Board members.

10. When are meetings held?

General Meetings, open to all owners and residents, are held at least three times per year (typically January, June, October) plus whenever the Board feels that an additional General Meeting is needed. The UPNA Board meets regularly during the year as well.