

Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA)
General Meeting
March 11, 2008
346 Shawmut Avenue

7:10 P.M.

The President, Jerry Frank, called the meeting to order. Board Members in attendance were: David Bonilla, Kevin Cole, James Alan Fox, Sue Ann Fox, Jerry Frank, Leslie Frank, H. Norman Knickle, Mary Bottella-Knickle, Christopher Mastrangelo, Erica Mastrangelo, and Bill McIntosh

1. Executive Director of Washington/Gateway Main Street

The new executive director, Linda Rubin Royer, introduced herself to the neighbors. She gave a brief update about her organization. She reiterated how her organization intends to preserve and protect what has been accomplished over the past ten years along Washington St. She also gave brief portrayals of upcoming campaigns and projects for the year 2008.

2. UPNA Committee Updates

Fund Raising & Neighborhood Activities – The chairperson, Mary Bottella Knickle provided an update: the Capital Campaign as of 03-11-08 had donations in the amount of \$7,300, with a goal of \$12,000. For a listing of the many activities in the neighborhood, go to the newly designed web page (www.upna.org) and go to “calendar of local events” for dates and times of activities in the neighborhood. Ms. Knickle stated that the association will continue the tradition of supporting the local South End Youth baseball team the “Mariners” with a donation of \$1,000.

Union Park Committee/Friends of Union Park – Chairperson Christopher Mastrangelo provided the following update: A meeting will be held at his residence on Union Park to form a park committee. Goals that have been set are: trimming the trees, plant grass, opening the park on occasions, maintaining the fountains, plant flowers and think about Christmas decorations for the park that will resemble decorations in the mall area of Commonwealth Avenue and addressing the fence.

Information & Communication – Mr. Knickle provided an update: Please check out the newly revamped web site! The site has been redesigned and is more “user friendly.” Also, please feel free to provide “suggestions” for the web site.

Neighborhood Liaison – Chairperson H. Norman Knickle provided the following update: success of working with Ellis Neighborhood Association; the result of a joint partnership is that the north side Tremont Street between the blocks of Union Park and Dartmouth Streets is being cleaned. Reports of significant improvements after the first week continue to be brought to the attention of both organizations.

Zoning, Building Codes, Licenses – Chairperson H. Norman Knickle provided the following update: conceptual requests from individuals and businesses wanting to make zoning and/or building code or license changes will generally not be provided a public hearing. Only those applications that are ripe for

recommendations and decisions will be received by the UPNA and provided a forum. An application must be filed with the city first.

3. 21 Union Park

Attorney Joseph Hanley introduced himself, and his clients, Bradley Rindler & Lisa Shapiro-Rindler as well as their architect, Darin Mardock (a resident of Union Park). The Rindlers currently live on Union Park and recently purchased the vacant 21 Union Park. Originally it was a settlement house, and eventually the building was used as a domestic abuse shelter. Large architectural drawings were presented to the audience. The building will become the primary residence of the Rindlers. They will also develop two additional condos in their building. Currently the building has a large, non-Victorian head-house. The owners have drawings of a smaller head-house and one that would be in keeping with the original architecture. No objections were expressed during their presentation. They will have a zoning hearing on April 8th (for decks in the rear) and at a later date they will have a full hearing with the Landmark Commission.

4. The South End Historical Society

Amy McCollum from The South End Historical Society made a brief presentation. She encouraged individuals to come to their headquarters at 532 Massachusetts Ave. to use the library and view the historical photographs of the South End. The Historical Society currently has a cast iron project where historically accurate cast iron fences and rail are being produced in a foundry in Maine. They will be available for purchase to residents of the South End. Ms. McCollum also noted that the Historical Society has scheduled its 42nd Annual Ball for May 10, 2008 and encouraged all to come.

5. Abandoned/Condemned Buildings

Jerry Frank reported the difficulty in getting owners to upgrade certain properties. Properties mentioned were: 23 Upton Street, the garage next to the Greek Church on Union Park St. and the Sahara Restaurant on Shawmut Avenue.

6. Villa Victoria Noise

Jerry Frank explained to those not familiar with the “noise event” how it was determined where the noise was coming from, that it was not the Boston Housing Authority tower in the Villa Victoria complex. Through the cooperative efforts of our neighborhood representative Meghan Haggerty, and the Boston Housing Authority, the problem has been solved.

7. Other Business

Minara Smith from Union Park asked that residents to educate themselves about the Bio-Lab. She left information for anyone who was interested.

8. Pine Street Inn Update

Jerry Frank announced that he has had meetings with Councilors Linehan and Flaherty. Councilor Flaherty has formally requested a public hearing with the Boston City Council. There is not yet a date for this hearing. We continue to try and engage the mayor, we have a petition with 100 names against the size of the project, and we continue to tell the Pine Street Inn that one building would be welcome on Upton Street; but three are too many.

The General Meeting is adjourned