

**NORTH END/WATERFRONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

Nazzaro Center, 30 N. Bennet Street

March 12, 2009, 7:00 pm

REPORTS

President's Report

Welcome - Mark Paul welcomed members and guests to the March monthly meeting and introduced NEWRA's officers. A special welcome was extended to new members including many waterfront residents in attendance, noting the importance of resident participation in NEWRA's many positive efforts in the neighborhood. The next NEWRA meeting will be on April 16, a week later than usual due to the observance of Holy Week. Press from the Boston Globe's city weekly section was identified to be in attendance.

Problem Property Committee - Mark Paul is representing the neighborhood on the City's Problem Property Committee, a multi-neighborhood effort to focus on property owners that are not complying with trash disposal ordinances and otherwise not taking care of their properties. Residents are encouraged to submit photos of problem properties in order for agencies to take action.

Boston's Dog Licensing Campaign has commenced for 2009 to assist dog owners to comply with the law requiring their pet to be licensed each year. A licensing and rabies clinic will be held in the North End on April 1, 2009 at the Nazzaro Center.

Public Safety - Car burglaries are on the rise. Residents are encouraged to hide their GPS and change when parking their cars.

Printing Operation - Victor Brogna reported that the printing operation on the corner of North & Richmond Streets is closing. This presents an opportunity for the N. Bennett Street School to gain space in the neighborhood.

Reports from City Hall

Janine Coppola, Director, Mayor's Office of Constituent Services reported that Boston Shines is looking for volunteers for City cleaning on April 25.

Zoning, Licensing and Construction Committee Report

Fairmont Battery Wharf - David Kubiak reported that the ZLC Committee will meet on March 24 to hear the Battery Wharf's application to amend its C.V. 7-day all-alcohol license to include outdoor patio service. The property is also seeking a valet license from the Boston Transportation Department involving five parking spaces along Commercial Street. It is expected that these issues will also be taken up at the NEWRA meeting on April 16, 2009.

64/66 Cross Street (former Martignetti's) - Finale and Christina DePalco have pulled out leaving owner Citizen's Bank looking for two additional lessees.

Government Center Garage Redevelopment - The next community meeting is scheduled for March 25 at 6:30 pm on the 10th floor of One Congress St (photo IDs are required to enter the building). The BRA also announced a public comment period ending on April 17, 2009. Attendees Bill Jacobson and Rebecca Griffin announced that the Coalition for Public Education wants to bring a public school to the redevelopment.

Harbor Garage Redevelopment - Developer Chiofaro has submitted a Letter of Intent to the BRA proposing to demolish the existing Harbor Garage located between Harbor Towers and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and build two towers with condos, offices stores and a hotel in its place. NEWRA representatives met with Mr. Chiofaro in his offices on February 18, 2009. The developer is proposing the two towers to be in the range of 600-700 feet, above the zoning code height code of 150 feet limit.

Greenway District Planning Study - The second public meeting will be held on March 18, 2009 at 6:00 pm on the 9th Floor of City Hall.

Clean Streets Committee Report

Ten Minutes With A Broom - Naomi Paul reported on the success of the program to date and asked residents and businesses to sign-up. It was noted that the program is gaining attention in the press and from other Boston neighborhoods.

Trash Cans - The committee is working on getting more trash cans on neighborhood streets.

Secretary's Report

No report other than that Matt Conti is substituting for Karol Sierra-Yanez, who was congratulated by the membership for becoming a U.S. Citizen.

Membership Committee

Mary McGee reported on a recent increase in membership applications, notably from the waterfront area.

PRESENTATION BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Janine Coppola, Director, reported on the City's new electronic system for logging, tracking, and responding to constituent calls to the Mayor's 24-hour Constituent Services number (Hot Line), at 617-635-4500. Ms. Coppola gave a history of the hotline and how the City has reorganized its system to be more efficient. The new software will allow for greater response and follow-through.

Residents can request a tracking number to follow their issue and can also file reports online. NEWRA thanked Ms. Coppola for her presentation, commenting on the benefits to the neighborhood and recommended that residents use the hotline.

ZONING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS

1 Unity Street, Unit #1, Ivan Kousidis has applied to the Boston Board of Appeal to convert basement into additional living area as an extension of his first floor residential condominium. After a presentation by Mr. Kousidis, questions focused on whether sufficient common space would remain for trash and other building maintenance purposes. All paperwork and abutter notifications were reported to be in order.

VOTE RESULTS: 34 SUPPORT, 2 OPPOSE

5 Tileston Street, John Pagliuca, has applied for a building permit and zoning relief for a 10-foot by 11-foot deck constructed several months ago at the rear of his residential building. In January 2009, NEWRA members voted to postpone action on the application pending execution of an agreement with an abutter.

Mr. Pagliuca made a presentation noting that he was unable to come to an agreement with 1 of the 3 abutters. Mr. Pagliuca was also represented by counsel who noted that the reason for relief related to the height of the deck structure and lack of adequate yard space. The applicant did not pull the proper permit at the time of construction when the deck was built.

Frank Dibicari identified himself as the opposing abutter indicating the deck was a surprise to him. He remains concerned regarding his ability to gain future approval to develop his own property in the future because of the deck's existence.

A lengthy question and comment period ensued related to the deck's configuration, lack of permit before construction and the abutter's ability to develop in the future.

VOTE RESULTS: 19 SUPPORT, 17 OPPOSE

The meeting was adjourned.

Next scheduled meeting date: Thursday April 16, 2009, 7:00 pm, Nazzaro Center, 30 N. Bennet St