

THE BOSTON SUN

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South End Landmarks burning the midnight oil

Community members, petitioners believe process is compromised by late meetings, long reviews

By Seth Daniel and Lauren Bennett

The lengthy agenda for the December South End Landmarks meeting beckoned like a painful dental appointment on the calendar last month as applicants filed into City Hall that afternoon and realized they were in for a long night.

Long nights and longer reviews have become the norm at Landmarks, which has increasingly been marked as a concern in the neighborhood, but the December meeting seemed to break all records – adjourning somewhere near 12:30 a.m.

“When I saw the agenda for that day, I said we’d be there until 10:30 p.m.,” said Vanessa Calderon Rosado, director of IBA, who was there for a very important review of their controversial demolition proposal for the IBA Arts Center. “Our item, though, was not even called until 10:30. By then, everyone is tired, including the commissioners, staff and audience. If the demand is so high to have agendas that are so packed, maybe they need to have more meetings or delegate more to staff. It is unwieldy and not the best pro-

(LANDMARKS, Pg. 4)

MFS PRO-AM SQUASH TOURNNEY



PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

Manek Mathur (left) and James Stout lock hands after a hard-fought battle against one another in the Championships of the MFS Squash Pro-Am Tournament at the University Club on Sunday, Jan. 12. The Club hosted the Pro-Am all weekend long, with scores of matches. Mathur’s team beat Stout’s team in the finals. See more photos on Page 8.

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN CELEBRATE 50 YEARS



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Councilor Kenzie Bok, Friends of the Public Garden Executive Director Elizabeth Vizza, Friends of the Public Garden Board Chair Leslie Adams, and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods were on hand Tuesday morning, Jan. 14, to help the Friends of the Public Garden (FOPG) kick off their 50th Anniversary at Suffolk University. The FOPG has many events and projects lined up throughout the year to celebrate their 50th year.

New neighborhood association forms to protect Alexandra-Ball neighborhood

By Seth Daniel

When residents beyond Massachusetts Avenue in the South End saw their resident parking disappear virtually overnight last summer – amidst many other changes taking place in that often-forgotten area of the South End – they decided it was time to organize.

And on Tuesday night, Jan. 14, the Alexandra-Ball Neighborhood Association held its first meeting

ever to discuss and address issues in the area from Northampton Street to Ball Street – and between Harrison and Shawmut avenues.

“A lot of us have been living down here for years and have been able to make things ourselves,” said Mike Fleming, secretary of the Association. “Lately, we’ve had things creep into the neighborhood that made us have to go through and form a more formal channel. We began organizing in

December and had our first formal meeting Jan. 14. We’ve had great participation so far.”

Along with Fleming, Attorney James Dilday has been elected president, and Pastor Pedro Castro has been elected vice president. The group will meet at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Grant AME Church basement.

(ABNA, Pg. 3)

‘A’ is not the answer on key Dartmouth Street corner

By Lauren Bennett and Seth Daniel

‘A’ is not okay for Back Bay neighbors reviewing one unique office building project on a key corner in the Back Bay – the surface parking lot at the corner of Newbury and Dartmouth streets that is one of the few undeveloped sites left in the area.

The project is brought by L3 Capital of Chicago, which pur-

chased the parking lot last summer for \$40 million. The project is unique in that it will be one of the first new-construction office buildings developed on Newbury Street in many years – a stretch that is predominately residential and retail-oriented. It is also unique as the proposal is by right, which means that it won’t have the normal public reviews that an Article 80 project would have.

The latest designs for the proposed project, officially located at 149 Newbury St., went before the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) on Jan. 8, where an Advisory Review was held and commissioners provided feedback, but no vote was taken. The project also went before the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay

(DARTMOUTH CORNER, Pg. 6)

EDITORIAL

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S

SPIRIT LIVES ON

When one considers that it has been almost 52 years since Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated while he was standing on a balcony in a motel room in Memphis, where King was staying while supporting striking city trash collection workers, it is easy to understand why so many of our fellow Americans today have so little understanding of who he was and what he accomplished.

Every school child for the past generation knows well the story of Dr. Martin Luther King. But an elementary school textbook cannot truly convey the extent to which he brought about real change in our country. To anyone under the age of 50, Martin Luther King is just another historical figure.

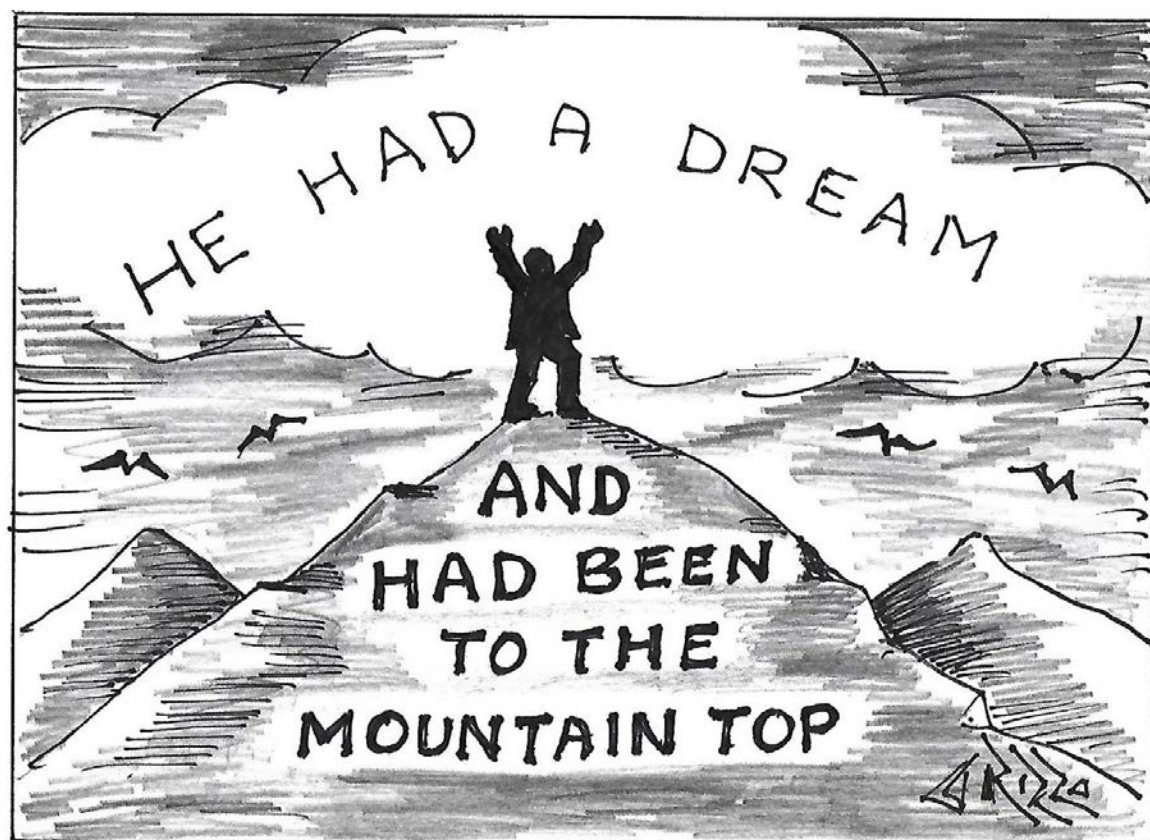
But for those of us who can recall the 1960s, a time when racial segregation was lawful throughout half of our country and a stealthy racism prevailed throughout the other half, Martin Luther King stands out as one of the great leaders in American history, a man whose stirring words and perseverance to his cause changed forever the historical trajectory of race relations in America, a subject that some historians refer to as the Original Sin of the American experience.

However, as much as things have changed for the better in the past 52 years in terms of racial equality in our society, it also is clear that we still have a long way to go before it can be said, as Dr. King famously put it in his speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

It is clear that there is a movement in our country that seeks to take away many of the hard-fought gains of the past six decades, and that there are some members of Congress, a majority of the Supreme Court, and a now a President who are happy to oblige in this endeavor.

The shootings and deaths of African-Americans while in police custody that have shocked all of us in the past few years are just the tip of the iceberg. Much more significant have been the judicial decisions that have stripped away key provisions of the Voting Rights Act, the disparate funding for education in urban areas compared to the wealthier suburbs, criminal laws that lead to disproportionate treatment and incarceration of minorities for drug-related offenses, and the voter ID laws and gerrymandering in many states that, in the words of a federal court in North Carolina, attain with surgical precision the goal of preventing people of color from being fairly represented in government at all levels.

"What would Dr. Martin Luther King do if he were alive today?" we often ask ourselves. We can't say for sure, but we do know that although King accomplished much in his lifetime, he would be the first to understand that the work for which he gave his life still is far from done -- and we can only hope that his spirit and courage can continue to inspire this and future generations to bring about a world in which all persons, regardless of the color of their skin or national origin, are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.



CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY JAN. 20

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Selling of the Harriet! Gentrification: Our never ending struggle – Their luxury, our eviction

Dear Editor,

Proving the power of community, in the early 1970s, former United South End Settlements (USES) Executive Director Ken Brown brought 23 agencies and 600 residents together, to ensure everyone's voice was heard for the development of the Harriet Tubman House. Under the current USES leadership, allegedly "100 stakeholders" where handpicked and had the privilege of being heard, while the black, brown and poor community was left out. Why were their voices more important than the larger community's voice? The community who pleaded to sell her for a higher community purpose, she belongs to the community. Why were the "100 stakeholders" allowed to play such an important role in the decision that would give way to the sale of this protected community asset named after a Black Female Freedom Fighter, and we were not?

Privilege has its advantages.

Throughout this struggle to preserve the Harriet Tubman House, the recurring question was "what is the big deal, isn't it just a building?" This question encapsulates the conflict. To those who feel so free to sell The Harriet Tubman, as she is known to the community she

serves, she is just that. A Building, property, real estate, something to buy and sell for profit. This is a definition of property, common to European settlers, which they imported into the fledgling colonies that would become the United States.

"It is mine and I can do what I want with it."

This belief undergirded the centuries-long "Crime Against Humanity" known as "chattel" slavery, the act of degrading a human being to the status of personal property - human beings owned by others, not by oneself.

Of course, this is something that Harriet Tubman was very familiar with herself, as are many people of African descent throughout the diaspora.

The Harriet Tubman House was built in response to Boston's war on the black and the poor called Urban Renewal. It was a gesture admitting the error of this horrific policy; also called "Negro Removal" by many of its victims, and a small attempt at making amends... the Urban Renewal restrictions put on her to protect, are no longer protecting her or the community she represents. It is no coincidence that she is steeped in Black history and closer to the church she was

affiliated with, the AME Zion movement. A history that should never be co-opted through a trendy café, and calling the luxury development project Tubman Place as if this is celebrating Harriet Tubman's legacy. The current Harriet Tubman House at 566 Columbus Ave., the successor to the original Harriet Tubman founded in 1906 by six Black women in the South End, now being sold to five white men in 2020.

Displacement and ugly memories of Urban Renewal from five decades ago were recently repeated, when the Suffolk County Sheriff's office sent a black man to the Harriet Tubman House with eviction notices for two black South End based nonprofits. One of the nonprofits is the historic Tenants' Development Corporation, (TDC), founded at United South End Settlements in 1968. TDC provides hundreds of affordable housing units in the South End, fought for, and changed housing policies by spearheading a landmark tenant's rights case nationally. The other, Resilient Sisterhood Project whose mission is to inform and empower women of African descent about their reproductive

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(LETTER, Pg. 3)

ABNA (from pg. 1)

Fleming said they would add more officers and board members at a certain point, but wanted to start small and build up the organization.

A key reason for the new organization was the loss of the neighborhood's South End resident parking last summer at the hands of Councilor Kim Janey, who filed an emergency order to remove the signs and resident parking in the area without any community process. Councilor Janey has yet to return queries from the Sun about the move last summer.

"That was one of the decisions made that caused us to have to organize," Fleming said, noting he has lived there since 2005. "In July, Councilor Janey took away our residential parking. I talked to many, many offices in the City and she was quietly looking to change a lot of the area's parking

beyond Mass Ave from the South End. Our neighborhood was the first on the her agenda. What happened is we got that stopped...At this point, we still don't have our parking re-instituted. While we stopped the expansion, it hasn't relieved our issue."

The parking issue was ignited, it is said, over the naming of the new hotel on Melnea Cass Boulevard – known as the Residence Inn South End. Many opposed that because they thought it should be named Roxbury, and staked a claim on the small neighborhood as being in Roxbury and not the South End. That ignited a firestorm that has any numbers of opinions on the matter. Former State Rep. Byron Rushing, widely believed to be the expert on the matter, is adamant that the area is part of the South End.

Fleming said Boston Transporta-

tion is on their agenda for the February meeting, and they hope to address their parking issue. Other issues include the amounts of development that has come to the area, with a new hotel, new residential projects and even a refurbishment of Ramsey Park.

Fleming said they are now fully into dealing with the opiate crisis that was centered at Mass/Cass and now has migrated to their neighborhood around Ramsey Park.

"Down here it's always had a lot of challenges, specifically with Ramsey Park," he said. "We worked for many years to improve it – removing benches and getting the liquor store to stop selling 'nip' bottles. Like most of the South End, though, when Atkinson Street

happened in August, we were also really impacted. At a certain point, the Methadone Mile had crept into the area by the hotel and the school bus yard. Our thing that we really want to do is figure out how to bring more positive into the area. I think Ramsey is one of the most beautiful parks in the city."

One thing they have thought about is adding a dog park to Ramsey Park, which has been an effective way in other parts of the South End to bring positive activity into challenged parks. He said they also hope to be able to make suggestions on how to use the development mitigation money that has been tagged for Ramsey – perhaps bringing programming that the community would like to see.

That's where the Parks Department comes in, and they are also slated to be at the February meeting as well.

Other issues include better crosswalks on Washington Street, which is a wide thoroughfare left over from the old elevated Orange Line. Children from the Grant AME Church are said to often have a tough time safely crossing from the church to the park on Sundays.

The next meeting of Alexandra-Ball will be on Feb. 11, 7 p.m., in the basement of the Grant AME Church. The organization's officers are also expected to give a presentation to the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association on Jan. 21 in the D-4 Police Station.

LETTER (from pg. 2)

health and rights through a cultural and social justice lens.

"Riots are the language of the unheard," said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The community, who fought so passionately to preserve her, exercised their democratic duty; tirelessly reaching out to local elected officials, only to be ignored or provided a false response: this is a "private" issue despite the city of Boston controlling the land use regulations. The community tried to compel the City Council to hold a public hearing and were denied. Two thousand sheets of paper with 57,000 signatures were dropped off at City Hall, from Bostonians and people across the country, opposed to the sale of this celebrated She-ro, Harriet Tubman.

Again, silenced.

The Harriet Tubman House was a beacon for the community, a bellwether of change, education and hope. The Harriet Tubman became the symbol in Boston that, if black and poor people stood up for themselves in a Democracy, they would be heard and respected. Sadly, the black and poor were not heard or respected at the city led "community" meetings, including a significant police presence at every "community" review meeting. The community asked for equal time at these meetings held at the Tubman House, and were ignored repeatedly. Black and poor youth were labeled with words that have been used as weapons against them all their lives: wild, loud, thugs, unruly, threatening, and others too ugly to print. Words carry power, especially for

young Black men up against gentrification and racist policies, who feel everything is being taken away from them. As a youth coordinator stated: "when you see these new buildings going up, we know they are not for us."

The gavel, Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) tool of choice, where young people hoping someone would finally listen, as they have been pleading - do not remove the restrictions. You see if they can demolish a protected community asset for more luxury condos, it sends a message that there is no hope or room for us in this City of Boston. Our youth were once again, silenced and censored by the harsh banging of the gavel. The gavel, so draconian, dating back to medieval times, is a symbol of oppression and control. Our youth were told this is not a public meeting, while elected officials and city employees who ignored the community were allowed to speak in support of the sale as the restrictions were removed in a unanimous irreversible vote by the BPDA board, with the looming heavy police presence looming close by.

Pastor, David Wright (Executive Director of the Black Ministerial Alliance)

Pat Oliver, former United South End Settlements employee
Jared Katsiane, South End Resident, Educator, and Youth Advocate

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Ride-hail locations in Fenway show positive results in first year

Mayor Martin Walsh announced an expansion of the ride-hail pickup locations and the results of the Fenway spots established more than a year ago.

The announcement builds on the results of the ride-hail pick up and drop off pilot program implemented on Boylston Street in Fenway in 2019. Boston's pick-up and drop-off zones are aimed at reducing traffic congestion linked to double parking by ride-hail drivers, and improving the safety of ride-hail passengers and other users of Boston's local

streets. The Boston Transportation Department is partnering with the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics and the Boston Department of Innovation and Technology, with the project furthering the goals of Go Boston 2030, the City's transportation plan.

"A world-class city needs world-class transportation, and we're working to find creative solutions to congestion, making transportation better for all," said Mayor Walsh. "Transportation is crucial to ensuring our residents

can get to their homes, their jobs and their schools, and my Administration will continue its mission to create the best transportation options for residents in Boston."

An initial assessment of the Fenway neighborhood pick up and drop off pilot program is positive, indicating more productive use of curb space, an increase in safe behaviors and reduced travel delays. There was a decrease in pick up/drop off activity in the

travel lane, as well as a 350 percent increase in the utilization of the curb, as measured by vehicles per hour. The pilot also concluded an eight percent decrease in parking tickets issued that may signify fewer vehicles left in the travel lanes. The two zones installed as part of the Fenway neighborhood pilot program are located on Boylston Street inbound, just east and west of Kilmarnock Street. The zones are operational from 5 p.m.

to 8 a.m., seven days a week.

The two zones installed as part of the Fenway neighborhood pilot program are located on Boylston Street inbound, just east and west of Kilmarnock Street. In addition to ride-hail vehicles, all private passenger vehicles can use these five zones for pick up and drop off purposes. Vehicles are subject to a five-minute limit at these locations and drivers are required to stay with their vehicle. The South Boston Seaport zones are operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

LANDMARKS (from pg. 1)

cess. You walk out of there and you're spent."

She is not alone.

Concerns are at an all-time height for the process unfolding monthly at the South End Landmarks Commission – a process that has at times gone beyond midnight in meetings that can go on for up to seven hours.

The meeting in December to review a long agenda, as well as a very important matter regarding the demolition of the IBA Arts Center on West Newton street, has seemingly become the red flag moment for many residents and organizations. That meeting began at 5:30 p.m., but did not adjourn until around 12:30 a.m. – with the most important part of the meeting, that being the Arts Center demo, coming well after 10:30 p.m.

South End Forum Moderator Steve Fox said he has received a number of complaints throughout the South End from people requesting small approvals to large-scale development reviews at Landmarks. He said he is leading the charge for change to the process at the Landmarks.

"The public process that is required in terms of applicants, neighborhood reaction and public comment is severely compromised when meetings are held on a once-a-month basis and those meetings extend into the early morning hours," he said. "It makes attendance impossible for interested neighbors to attend... Even for things like windows. The Back Bay Architectural Commission has a more enlightened view of windows than the South End Landmarks. That is all because of the viewpoint of one member of

the Landmarks Commission who thinks everyone else should share that same viewpoint."

Landmarks Chair John Amodeo, who is a very vocal member of the Commission, was not available for comment on this article. However, Joe Cornish – of Landmarks – said they strive to conduct meetings in a timely manner.

"The Commission strives to run each meeting in a timely and efficient manner, while ensuring that the community is given ample opportunity to voice their feedback," said Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission. "The duration of each South End Landmark District Commission hearing differs, as it is determined by the number of applications on the agenda, their complexity, and how closely those applications adhere

to the Standards and Criteria."

However, applicants over the past year have pointed to long reviews that delay their projects, as well as poor communication between City departments and Landmarks. All of it is costly, and in the case of IBA, takes precious resources away from programming for children, the arts community and senior citizens.

Calderon Rosado said it has taken a substantial amount of time for Landmarks and City departments to understand and familiarize themselves with it.

"I think the issue is Landmarks, but also communication between Landmarks and other City departments, specifically ISD," she said. "Neither of the organizations really are communicating clearly and giving a straight path to an outcome (for petitioners). That has put us in a very challenging limbo and it's tough because not only can we not proceed, but our programs are affected...We are spending money on things like heat, scaffolding and fire alarm coverage for a condemned building. That's money we should be investing in our programs and a new building. Obviously, that's very frustrating."

Bob Barney, president of the Claremont Neighborhood Association, recently attended the Jan. 7 Landmarks hearing and had some concerns around the length of the hearing.

He said that four projects in the Claremont Neighborhood Association area were before the Commission last Tuesday night, and the "commissioners did a really nice assessment of the projects." Barney applauded the Commission for their thorough comments and their openness with the project teams about what can be done to improve their projects. He added that the Commission seemed receptive of comments from neighbors as well.

However, he said he was at City Hall until 11:15 p.m. discussing the Northampton Street Residence proposal with the Commission,

the project team, and the community. These hearings typically begin at 5:30 p.m.

"Finishing at 11:15 p.m. is really late," he said, but "Landmarks did the best they could—they went through the agenda. Since they had a number of projects that were significant, I think that lengthened the presentations."

Barney suggested that when the agendas are heavy like this in any particular month, the Commission might hold more than one meeting to cut down on the length but still be able to provide appropriate and sufficient feedback to each applicant, as well as take the time to hear comments from the community.

Additionally, "I would say maybe an opportunity for them would be to look at the agenda and if they find it's too overwhelming for one meeting, maybe they could give certain start and end times to monitor it a little better," he added. "I think they're stuck; I really do," Barney said.

Barney said he understands the need for these lengthy conversations surrounding a project, as they generate feedback that ultimately creates a better project for everyone, but at the same time he understands that having to wait hours for a proposal to be discussed is also frustrating.

"I really enjoyed listening to them," Barney said of the Commission. "They provided insight that I certainly hadn't thought of. I totally appreciate that."

The number of development projects in the South End continues to grow, which leads to these lengthy design hearings in which a lot of different people want to prove input, but Barney said they are necessary, as he feels the project team is "more apt to listen to someone like [the Commission] rather than an abutter with a defined perspective. Even though it was long, I appreciated everything they did," Barney said. "I think that's a big benefit to everybody."



Community Meeting

PLAN: Nubian Square

Nubian Square Workshop

Monday, January 27

6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

980 Harrison Ave

2nd Floor Training Room
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

The January PLAN: Nubian Square workshop will build upon previous PLAN: Nubian workshops and will focus on the Campus High Urban Renewal Plan, which Crescent, Malcolm X & Putnam, and P3 are all a part of. We will discuss the history of the urban renewal plan, how it impacted the area, and how it is discussed in relation to PLAN: Nubian Square. We will also be discussing the urban design guidelines for Crescent Parcel, and Malcolm X and Putnam Parcels.

As with all previous workshops, feedback provided will be taken into consideration for incorporation into the RFP documents. Throughout the evening there will be opportunities for attendees to engage in dialogue with City and BPDA team members, regarding urban renewal and urban design guidelines.

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Friends of the Public Garden celebrate 50 years

By Dan Murphy

With this year marking the nonprofit's 50th anniversary, representatives from the Friends of the Public Garden previewed some of the projects, programs and special events planned to commemorate the milestone during a kick-off event Tuesday morning at Moakley Law Library at Suffolk Law School.

Liz Vizza, executive director of the Friends group, said the nonprofit is now raising \$4



Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods speaking during the 50th Anniversary Kick-Off.

million to underwrite the costs of restoring the Arlington Street entrance and reactivating two child fountains on the Public Garden; lighting statues and making landscape improvements to the Commonwealth Avenue Mall; and contracting American artist Janet Zweig to create "temporary art installation that will stop visitors in their tracks."

Also, as part the approximately \$2.8 restoration of the Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial on the Boston Common that the Friends group is undertaking in partnership with the Boston Parks Department, the National Park Service and

the Museum of African American History, around 900 feet of linear fencing will be removed to make way for interpretative panels that Vizza calls "essentially a museum without walls...that will tell the story of the monument."

To celebrate its Golden Anniversary, Vizza said the Friends are also undertaking several special events aimed at Civic Engagement, including a free day of skating on the Frond Pond on the Boston Common on Feb. 9, as well as a 50th-birthday party for the Friends at Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common on Aug. 22 with "games, family friendly activities and, of course cake."

"The Boston Common, the Public Garden and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall belong to everyone...and we all need to be involved and advocating for them," Vizza said. "Take the time to bring a friend this year to these parks, and to fall in love with these parks that are so essential to our city."

Leslie Singleton Adam, chair of the Friends board of directors, lauded the Memorandum of Agreement that the nonprofit entered into with the Boston Parks Department on Friday that ensures to continuing their commitment to caring for the Public Garden, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Boston Common for the next 50 years and includes an addendum that outlines month by month work currently underway at the parks.

"This represents a tremendous



Pat Flaherty and Mary Beth Karr.

PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



Josh Altidor, Parks and Recreation Director of Maintenance, reviews the 2020 projects with Friends of the Public Garden Executive Director Elizabeth Vizza



Stephen Jeffries and Namrita Kapur.

amount of work by a tremendous amount of people...that sets up for our continued success over the next 50 years," Adam said.

Unlike the previous agreement between the Friends group and the city, which Adam likened to a "pinkie shake," this formalizes their partnership and makes it legally binding.

Ryan Woods, commissioner of the Boston Parks Department, also praised the "great partnership" between the city and the Friends group.

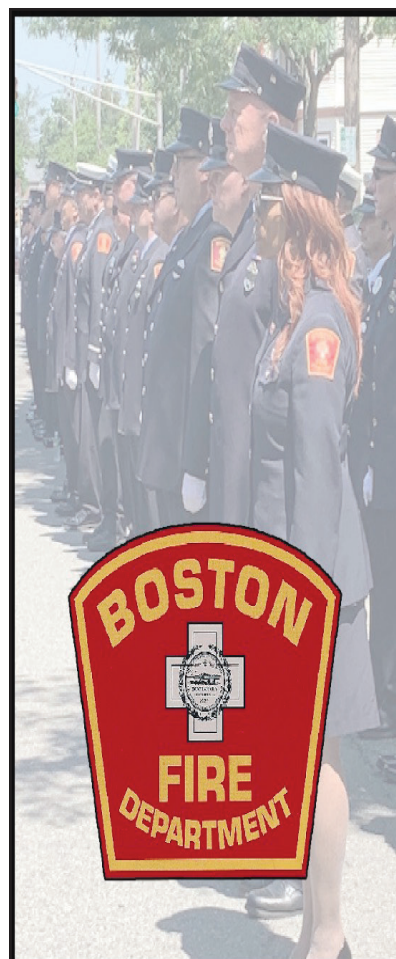
"Without the Friends, we wouldn't have the gems on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, Public Garden and Boston Common," Woods said.



Amanda McGuire, Jan Trousilek, and Hannah Williamson of the Friends of the Public Garden.



Steve Young speaking with Jim Hall.



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[MASS.GOV/CIVILSERVICE](https://www.mass.gov/civilservice)

Boston is ahead of the curve in combatting youth homelessness

By Seth Daniel

The topic of homelessness and substance abuse crop up at about



Amina Johnson of More Than Words and Melissa MacDonnell, president of Liberty Mutual Foundation.

every meeting in the South End and Back Bay nowadays, but in most cases the topic involves adults only.

A more common, pernicious and hidden problem is that of youth homelessness, and Boston and its corporate partners were honored last Friday at the More Than Words Bookstore in the South End as being on the cutting edge of ending this struggle for young people.

The event was highlighted by a commitment from Liberty Mutual – headquartered in the Back Bay – to provide \$5 million in philanthropic grants to organizations in Greater Boston trying to combat youth homelessness. On Thursday, More Than Words was one of 19 organizations awarded in the first round of the grant process – a award ceremony attended by Mayor Martin Walsh and a national youth homelessness advocate.

Amina Johnson, a participant at More Than Words, led off the morning with her story of trying to navigate being homeless and going to school. At the age of 10, her mother lost their housing, and they lived in a shelter and at various other homes.

“I was moving around a lot with my mother and scrounging for food,” she said. “I tried to stay in school and keep up my grades, but my mom really didn’t care if I did or not, and so it didn’t last. I dropped out in the 12th grade. Homelessness can make your life chaotic even when you’re trying to get your life on track.”

Johnson came to More Than Words recently, and has procured a stable room to live, and is working towards college.

“The first thing I did was deco-



Mayor Martin Walsh.

rate my door and I went out and got a fish, too,” she laughed.

Liberty CEO David Long said his company is committed to helping organizations end youth home-

(HOMELESSNESS, Pg. 7)

DARTMOUTH CORNER (from pg. 1)

(NABB)’s Architecture Committee on Jan. 7, with nearly 50 people in attendance. This is the second iteration of the project that has been presented to the public, and many aren’t impressed.

Many neighbors were shocked by the large amounts of glass, and a corner ‘A’ feature at the entrance that is to represent the buildings name, ‘The Aubrey.’ For a lot of neighbors, the large amounts of glass going up several floors, and the “gaudy” ‘A’ feature lack an elegance that neighbors hoped for on the corner – which is officially known as the Dartmouth Street Mall.

L3 Capital founders in Chicago did not respond to multiple e-mails from the Sun seeking comment on the most recent design issues.

Sue Prindle, Co-Chair of the NABB Architecture Committee,

said that the committee’s biggest issues with the latest proposal are the amount of glass on the building, the mechanical equipment on the roof, and the rear facade.

“There’s concern about how the light will affect the surrounding abutters,” Prindle said. She also said that she believes the building “isn’t contextual with Newbury Street. Nobody’s looking for a historic building but I think it needs to fit within the design [of the rest of the street.]”

The glass facade of the building is of utmost concern for NABB and surrounding neighbors.

“Commenters felt that it was jarring and out of scale and did not relate to the rest of the building façade or to other buildings on Newbury Street; that such a heroic entrance should relate better to the interior uses and would work bet-

ter on a large retail or office space; and that it provided too much exposure to the interior of the building, whose appearance will be difficult to control over time,” the NABB Architecture Committee stated in a letter to the BBAC.

The Committee also expressed concern for light pollution when it came to the glass design, as well as concerns over seeing office furniture and lighting from the street. Though the project proponents did add an element of brick and bronze to this iteration of the design, “the design reads as several disconnected concepts, rather than as a whole,” the letter reads. Additionally, some people felt as though the brick looks “pasted on the facade,” rather than a supporting element of the building.

The new mechanical equipment proposed appears larger, which Prindle said was an issue. Visibility of mechanical equipment is a huge area of concern in the Back Bay, and one that is frequently discussed at length at BBAC hearings.

“We noted that the mechanical space has doubled since the previous presentation,” the comment letter stated. “We would like to see a more detailed study of the roofscape and a sincere attempt to minimize the impact of the mechanicals on the Vendome residents without increasing their visibility from Newbury or Dartmouth streets.”

The Vendome condominiums share the capstone of the block, and would be the closest abutter.

Lastly, the committee wants trash to be stored on the interior of the building, and “urges that the applicant develop a comprehensive plan for the rear facade

and the rear-yard area, including the materials to be used, parking delineation, if any, commercial loading area, and interior trash and recycling storage,” the letter read.

“We appreciate the effort made to address the concerns we expressed in December and the progress that has been made on several areas of concern,” the committee stated. “However, our committee feels that the location and the design warrant further serious study.”

Prindle said that the project team has been receptive, and is working with the community, and “we hope they will continue to do so.” She said she looks forward to further conversations with the team, and is confident that they can come together towards a solution that works for everyone.

Ed Deveau, a resident of the abutting Vendome Condominiums for more than 10 years, said that he and other Vendome residents were aware that someday the empty parking lot might change. However, he and many of the other residents are not satisfied with the proposal as it currently stands. Deveau said he enjoys the Vendome and the Back Bay neighborhood, but he’d like to see a proposal that is more contextual with the rest of the area. As a former police officer in charge of improving the quality of life of residents, he is very concerned about this building and how it will affect the residents of the Vendome.

“My concerns are how the new owners have presented and how it really doesn’t seem to fit in,” Deveau said of the building. He

agreed with the NABB Architecture Committee that the building design is not compatible with the neighborhood. “It doesn’t seem to be a good neighbor to come in and put in a building like that,” he said.

He noted the proposed seating areas around the building, which he said, “look to me like a skateboard park.” He cited this as a quality-of-life issue and wondered why “[the developers] would present something that attracts something like that” for this area of the neighborhood.

Deveau said there are 65 different owners in the Vendome that face the direction of the proposed building, and there would be “significant change in those views out the windows,” he said. “Most of the owners understand that.”

However, he said that the design of the back of the building is also “poor,” as it has “little to no windows and it looks to me more like a Costco facility than a side of a building in the Back Bay.”

Additionally, Deveau said he is concerned about the developers’ plan to “maximize the building,” and add more mechanical equipment than previously proposed. “I think some of it has to do with the design of the building,” he said, as the all-glass design is probably not the most energy efficient.

“We’re hoping to see them do some changes,” he said of the developers. Deveau said that the increase in size of the fifth floor and the additional mechanical space that was not included in the original design is a “significant step backwards as I see it.”



The most recent design for ‘The Aubrey’ has neighbors calling for a more elegant design without so much glass, and without the new signature ‘A’ at the entrance. The building would be one of the first office buildings constructed on Newbury Street in many years, and it sits on one of the few plots of land that is undeveloped.

HOMELESSNESS *(from pg. 6)*

lessness.

"This money comes on behalf of young people who are homeless and often fly under the radar and are predominantly LGBTQ," he said. "They have been kicked out and let down by so many people. They have to focus on how to survive and not thrive. They need employment, they need housing, they need someone to believe

in them. Young people who are homeless are often hidden in plain sight."

Mayor Martin Walsh said he ran for public office to help young people in this kind of situation. He praised Liberty Mutual for not just donating, but caring.

"This isn't people in a board room checking off some box for a donation that had to be made,"

he said. "They do this because they sincerely want to help."

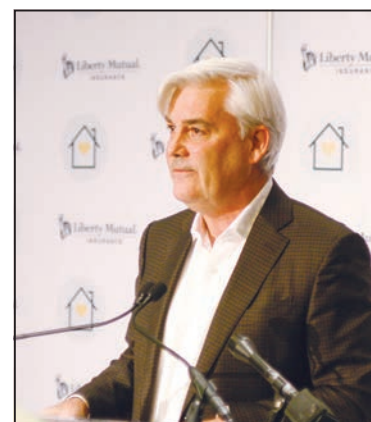
A Way Home American Director Amy Gibbard Kline said the issue has become more prominent around the country, but that Boston has the magic formula.

"This is an unusual community in Boston and Liberty Mutual is an unbelievable company and you have got people on the ground,"

she said.

Those from the downtown neighborhoods receiving grants included:

- Boston Health Care for the Homeless - \$450,000.
- Fenway Health - \$300,000.
- Smart from the Start - \$90,000.
- More Than Words - \$450,000.



Liberty Mutual CEO David Long.



Barry Bock of Boston Health Care for the Homeless receives an award.



Smart from the Start representatives received their award.



Jodi Rosenbaum of More Than Words receives their award.

Walsh, Friends of The Public Garden sign agreement to strengthen care for downtown parks

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced on Jan. 10 the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of the Public Garden have signed a formal cooperation agreement to enhance the care of Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed today, strengthens the 50-year partnership between the Parks Department and the Friends at the strategic and operational level, committing to a shared objective of preserving, restoring, and caring for these historic parks in the heart of downtown.

"Our parks and gardens are so important to our community: they hold our history, they bring people together, and they bring the beauty of nature into our City," said Mayor Walsh. "The Friends of the Public Garden put their heart and soul into these community spaces, and has been a partner to the City for a long time. I want to congratulate them on their 50 year anniversary, and am proud that today, we made our partnership official."

The Common, the Garden, and the Mall are some of the most heavily used parks in the City and the sites of Boston's largest collection of public art. Since 1970, their

restoration has been made possible through the public-private partnership of the City of Boston and the Friends of the Public Garden. This MOA supports ongoing cooperation in achieving common goals of innovation and excellence in parks care and enables more efficient and effective stewardship through a deepened cross-sector understanding.

Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall are civic treasures in the heart of downtown Boston. They are celebrated and beloved green spaces, functioning as the neighborhood parks for over 55,000 people, and serving as major attractions for tourists; visited by more than seven million people annually.

"Our core mission at Boston Parks and Recreation is to design and maintain parks that delight visitors," said Commissioner Ryan Woods. "I look forward to continuing our strong relationship with the Friends of the Public Garden and ensuring that all visitors to these iconic parks have the best experience possible."

"Parks remind us that we are not alone. They are places that do not charge admission but are where we come together and make some of our most priceless mem-



Mayor Martin Walsh and City officials joined officials from the Friends of the Public Gardens to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Friday, Jan. 10.

ories," said Liz Vizza, Executive Director of the Friends of the Public Garden. "Together, the City and the Friends will continue to ensure that these parks remain special sceneries that serve the people of Boston and visitors alike while protecting these important open green places for decades to come."

The agreement aligns with the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan focusing on access, equity, and excellence, so that every neighborhood is home to beautiful spaces that serve both the people and the environment. The partnership will improve quality of life for downtown residents while increas-

ing the resilience of these three parks that welcome millions of visitors from the metro region and the world. Restoration and maintenance work in Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall are part of investments outlined in Imagine Boston 2030.

COURTESY PHOTO

MFS PRO-AM SQUASH TOURNAMENT

Photos by Emily Harney

The MFS Pro-Am Squash tournament took place over the weekend at the University Club in the Back Bay. The tournament fea-

tured two great semi-final matches on Saturday evening, and the championship game on Sunday, with the doubles-championship being taken by Manek Mathur and Chris Callis.



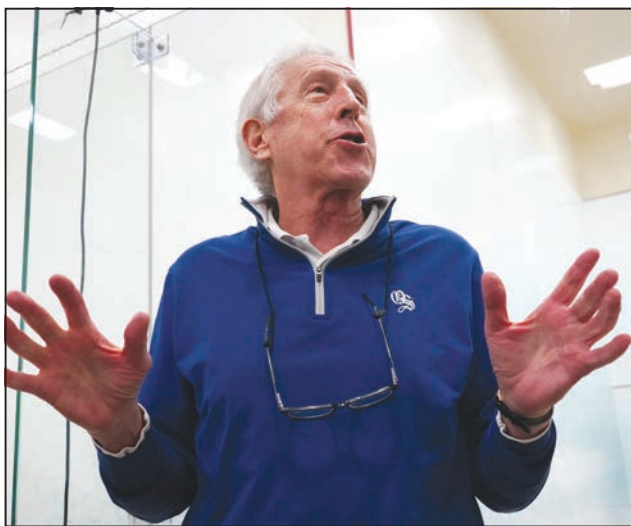
Manek Mathur prepares to return the ball.



Tournament Chair Lenny Bernheimer, Greg McArthur, James Stout, and doubles champions Chris Callis and Manek Mathur.



Manek Mathur lines up a shot.



Tournament Chair Lenny Bernheimer gives some commentary.



Manek Mathur relaxes after the championship game.



James Stout on the serve.



Greg McArthur zeroes in on the ball.



Greg McArthur prepares for a backhand.

NEWS BRIEFS

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION GUIDELINES UPDATE

The Bay Village Historic District Commission (BVHDC) has been working for around three years on updating its guidelines, and Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said that the BVHDC hopes to adopt the finalized revised guidelines at a public hearing this spring.

TOP OF THE HUB AND SKYWALK SET TO CLOSE

The Top of the Hub restaurant along with the Skywalk Observatory in the Prudential Tower are

slated to close in April. However, The Boston Globe reported on Wednesday afternoon. Boston Properties Inc., which owns the Prudential Tower, said that “they are planning an exciting new design for an observatory.”

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

• **SAVE THE DATE** for a new winter event on Boston Common! To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, on Sunday, February 9, the Friends of the Public Garden will be sponsoring Skating with Friends, FREE skating for all on the Frog Pond! Stay tuned for more updates.

SOUTH END DATES

• The South End Forum Op-

ate Working Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 4 p.m. in the Hampton Inn and Suites, Mass/Cass. Look for updates as the meeting might change.

• The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the D-4 Police Community Room, Harrison Avenue. There will be a discussion and presentation on a new neighborhood association starting below Mass Ave, and an update on Mass/Cass 2.0 by City Health Chief Marty Martinez.

• The South End Forum will not meet at its regularly scheduled January date. The first quarter meet-

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 10)

Crite Park re-design moving fast, raising significant money

By Seth Daniel

Six months ago, Cheryl Dickinson and several neighbors from the Ellis South End area, including the areas neighborhood association, rallied the community to raise funds to refurbish the Allan Rohan Crite Park on Columbus Avenue.

After getting the blessing of the late artist's widow, she and a committee began the task.

Now, having been ultra-successful, the Committee has raised \$22,000 and is ready to begin the survey and design process. The goal is to be “shovel-ready” so they can access the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to do the bulk of the work.

“We have hired the BSC Group

landscape architects to complete a variety of City-required tasks,” said Dickinson. “At the completion of the tasks, the land will be shovel-ready and eligible to compete for funding.”

The site survey is to take place this month, with the goal of completing conceptual designs by March. In May, she said they hope to begin holding community meetings to review all of the designs for the park, which will increase by about 3.4 times its current size.

A final design is expected by June, and they are aiming to apply for CPA funding in September.

Dickinson said the BSC Group already has a number of exciting ideas for re-shaping the park, all based on community surveys done last fall.

Southenders receive update regarding Northampton Street Residences project

By Lauren Bennett

A second public meeting was held regarding the Northampton Street Residences, which is a proposed project for the surface parking lot located on Northampton Street between the Southwest Corridor Park and the Newcastle Court residential building. The project consists of 47 affordable housing units in a five and one-half story building. All units will be income-restricted.

Last October, the project team presented the original design for the project and allowed the community to provide feedback on the design. Since that meeting, Peter Spells of Transom Real Estate said that they have “begun conversations and exploration about activating the corridor from the T station down.” They have also talked with the South End Landmark District Commission for an advisory review, and anticipate conversations with the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Southwest Corridor Park Management Advisory Council (PMAC).

Spellios said that the design of the building is expected to change and morph as they receive more feedback from the South End Landmark District Commission as well as the public and others.

Spellios said that they hope to “find ways to drop no harm” and then enhance the park that is adjacent to the project, starting with adding water service. He said they will work with park stakeholders on a redesign of the park that will work for everyone.

The proposed building will sit directly next to the existing Newcastle Saranac building, with a shared space in between the two buildings. Spellios said that they anticipate the manager of the new building to be the same one as Newcastle Saranac. He also said that there will be a handicap-accessible ramp installed on the lower portion of the Newcastle building, which will lead to a small green space and the management and leasing office.

There will also be a drop-off space at the current curb cut where the parking lot is now—no parking will be allowed in that space.

Spellios said that the color of the brick has been designed to be cohesive with the Newcastle building, and the Commissioners at the South End Landmark District Commission “were comfortable with that,” he said. Additionally, the brick design is pixelated, which creates depth and richness to the building, Spellios said.

A comment was made that there should be more entrances and exits to the building, especially one on the side that abuts the park. Spellios said that fronting on that side of the building “would require de-greening on the area,” and “it’s harder to do it in a way that’s not going to disturb what’s beautiful” about the green area.

Having one way in and one way out “feels like a trap,” one neighbor said. Spellios said that there is no option to have a door in the courtyard in between the two buildings because there is a 5-foot grade change there, and also he doesn’t want to “appropriate any public space” as being for these

residents only, because that is not the goal.

South End resident Carol Blair wondered about bad behavior in the courtyard and how that might be handled. Spellios said the purpose of the ramp in the courtyard is to “activate the lower level.”

He said they are hesitant to gate the area because “we are trying to build community, and gating makes it feel like people don’t belong.” He said they aren’t completely against putting aesthetically pleasing gates, but it will have to be done in a way that does not create an idea that it’s meant to keep people in or out. He said that the fact that the same management will be used for both buildings will be “very helpful” as well.

Ted Lubitz of Harbor Run Development, LLC, a partner on the project, said that for security reasons, one primary entrance is the way to go “to control who gets in and out and make sure it’s safe.”

The team is still unsure whether these units will be apartments for rent or condominiums for sale, as the funding sources are still to be determined. “We still have a while to go on the process,” Spellios said. He said they hope to begin the project post-2020.

“Our process will end in February with the Zoning Commission,” said Michael Sinatra, Project Manager for the Boston Planning and Development Agency. The project also still has to go through the South End Landmark District Commission process, where they will be accepting design comments. The process with the parks department will also be taking comments, he added.

HELP WANTED

Graph Product Director (FT) perm. pos. in Charlestown, MA (Suffolk County) Specify & oversee the development of metrics, benchmarking approaches & evaluations to satisfy & anticipate market demands for graph technology, using all of the following bioinformatics tools & methods to analyze DNA sequencing data: Python programming language, Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA), Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK), DeepVariant, Strelka, Sentieon, Edico Dragen, Samtools, BCFtools, RTG tools (Real Time Genomics), Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV), Common Workflow Language (CWL). Supervise direct reporting staff. Own the Seven Bridges Graph Technology roadmap, facilitate continual grooming, adjustments & communicate milestones as well as changes among team members & other stakeholders within Seven Bridges. Partner with appropriate stakeholders to develop, test & iterate on product offerings & exposure to the market. Specify &/or oversee end-user interaction methods to provide streamlined engagement with SBG Graph Technology by clients with diverse technical expertise. Partner with cross functional teams to support customer outreach, engagement & growth throughout the product &/or services lifecycle. Develop & participate in technology transfer partnerships with client organizations to enable enhanced test cases & demonstration of superior results. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or a related field, such as Math, Physics, Electrical/Electronics Engineering (or foreign equivalent degree). 3 years of experience in job offered or related occupation in graph technology based genomics research, such as R&D manager/team leader. The required experience must include the experience with all of the following bioinformatics tools & methods to analyze DNA sequencing data: Python programming language, Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA), Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK), Samtools, BCFtools, RTG tools (Real Time Genomics), Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV), Common Workflow Language (CWL). Qualified applicants please contact Seven Bridges Genomics Inc., Attn: Piotr Szamel, General Counsel, 529 Main St, Ste 6610, Charlestown, MA 02129. Must have unrestricted work authorization in the U.S.

Manager (Cambridge, MA)
for auto service station.
Requires minimum Bachelors
in Business plus 2 years
mgmt. exp.
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News Briefs

From Pg 9

ing is still up in the air, but a date of Feb. 4 is being discussed.

•The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association will have a board meeting on Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. in 66 Berkeley St.

•The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) will host its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, in the Boston Medical Center's Menino Pavilion in the conference room, next to the surgical suite waiting-room.

•The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) will have its next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. in Project Place.

•The Eight Streets Neighborhood Association has scheduled its Winter Meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 6:45 p.m. in Project Place, Washington/East Berkeley Street.

•Come join St. Stephen's Youth Programs, The Blackstone School, and other partners for the MLK Day of Action on Monday, Jan. 20. In the morning, volunteers work on projects to improve the learning environment at the Black-

stone School and St. Stephen's Youth Programs. In the afternoon, volunteers reflect on the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and take action to honor and make real his vision for justice and equity. This year's learning and action will focus on supporting the safety and inclusion of immigrant students within Boston Public Schools.

Details for the Day

All volunteers report to St. Stephen's at 419 Shawmut Ave.

9:30-10 a.m. - Volunteer Check In and Breakfast at St. Stephen's (419 Shawmut Ave.)

10 a.m. - noon - Work on Physical Projects (at one of three locations)

noon-12:45pm - Lunch & Conversations about MLK's Legacy (at St. Stephen's, 419 Shawmut Ave.)

12:45-1:30 p.m. - MLK Day Reflection and Workshop (at St. Stephen's, 419 Shawmut Ave.)

1:30-2:30 p.m. Action for Education Equity

FENWAY TIMES

•Elizabeth Bertolozzi, President

of the Fenway Garden Society, and Rick Richter, Vice President, were re-elected to their positions on the board for another year this past Saturday.

•Museum of Fine Arts, Boston - MLK Day Celebration - Jan. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by surrounding yourself with art, culture, and community. Free attendance to the Museum of Fine Arts Boston includes, performances, tours, art-making activities, and more.

•MLK Day of Service - Helping Hands Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, Fenway Community Center. Plant the seed of service with a variety of arts and crafts and activities designed for children to be able to reach out and help others.

•Fenway Sound. Dr. Erica Walker presents the results of her 2019 study on noise levels in the Fenway. Thursday, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m., Fenway Community Center. 1282 Boylston St. - enter on Jersey Street.

•Artist Reception. Kaji Aso

Studio Art Exhibition - Sprites & Spirits, Opening Reception, Jan. 18, 7-9 p.m. Visit the studio, located at 40 St. Stephen St. in the East Fenway, for a free evening featuring art, poetry, and music. For more information, contact administrator@kajiasostudio.com.

•Fenway Center Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting, Jan. 21, 6 p.m., in the Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. The CAC meeting will be held to discuss a Notice of Project Change and PDA amendment for the Fenway Center air rights project at Parcel 7.

•The Rink at 401 Park is open an operating (weather dependent). The rink is open seven days a week. Monday-Friday, 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. \$10 for adults, \$6 for college students, seniors and kids under 12. Skate rentals are \$6.

•Construction begins on Van Ness Lot

Work has started on the parking lot on the corner of Van Ness and Ipswich streets behind CVS as

part of the overall Fenway Music Hall and bleacher improvement projects project. This will be a new designated area for TV trucks and other storage related to Fenway Park that was previously located on the site of the future MGM Music Hall at Fenway. This part of the project mostly involves leveling and resealing.

•Select Red Sox 2020 Tickets on Sale Now

Red Sox 2020 "Sox Pax" and single-game tickets for select April, May, and September games are on sale as of today. Tickets are available online at redsox.com and by phone at (877) RED-SOX9. "Sox Pax" are packs of three or four games with a variety of date and seat options, including Interleague games, summer weekend games, and matchups against the Yankees and Cardinals. You can view these purchase options here. There will be a limit of three Sox Pax (up to four tickets each) per person, and 12 single-game tickets per transaction.

UrbanMeritage purchases retail below Hotel Commonwealth

By Lauren Bennett

Real estate company UrbanMeritage, in a joint venture with Novaya and Invesco Real Estate, has purchased a 36,000 square-foot retail complex located at the base of Hotel Commonwealth in the Kenmore area for \$44,000,000. The complex, known as Kenmore Row, consists of parcels from 500-528 Commonwealth Ave., which includes Island Creek Oyster Bar, Eastern Standard, and The Hawthorne. UrbanMeritage is based on

Newbury Street and owns a portfolio of properties there as well.

According to the leasing brochure on UrbanMeritage's website, there is 1,044 square feet of space available for rent. It is unclear what kind of tenant would fill that space, though the brochure touts the space as an "opportunity to act as an amenity" as it is near "highly activated [and] awarded restaurants" in a "retail centerpiece in the heart of Kenmore Square." An attempt by the Sun to reach Mike Jammen, a principal at UrbanMeritage, was unsuccessful.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY

Chang, Gloria L
Haseotes, George P

BEACON HILL

Nebhnani, Tina
Mayani, Eyad

SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE

Stauth, Jessica
Mayani, Eyad
Gucciardo, Christopher A
Liu, Qin
Toth, Kevin
Fitzpatrick, Peter J
Fitzpatrick, Peter J
Lorrain-Hale, Theo
Karacaoglu, Ahmet
Gucciardo, Christopher A
Price, Christopher D

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Ascoli, Renato
Monboquette, Nancy
D L Hassenfeld Getz RET
Penney, Ellen B
Penney, Ellen B

SELLER 1

Yazdi, Hassan
4 Seasons 1220 RT

Fishman, Eric A
Saint Botolph 67 RT

Hammond, Megan R
Saint Botolph 67 RT
Dixon, Lisa
Pan, Jun
Glass, Ryan J
Otten, Leslie B
Otten, Leslie B
Jacob, Daniel B
T J Pesanelli RET
Dixon, Lisa
66 West Rutland Dev LLC

Leith, Jason
Geraldine M Mceachern
Prives, Lynne A
Young, Anne B
Young, Anne B

ADDRESS

119 Beacon St #6
220 Boylston St #1220

2 Hawthorne Pl #17J
67 Saint Botolph St #1

5 Appleton St #4E
67 Saint Botolph St #1
110 Stuart St #22J
534 Beacon St #502
558 Columbus Ave #F
5 Durham St #1
5 Durham St #2
9 S Russell St #5
15 Savoy St #D108
110 Stuart St #22J
66 W Rutland Sq

121-123 Beach St #603
80 Broad St #204
300 Commercial St #408
170 Tremont St #1001
170 Tremont St #1002

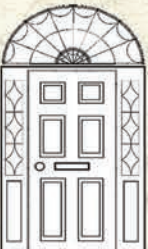
PRICE

\$1,825,000
\$5,875,000

\$71,500
\$2,400,000

\$716,000
\$2,400,000
\$1,160,000
\$548,000
\$561,000
\$2,225,000
\$2,225,000
\$750,000
\$1,555,000
\$1,160,000
\$3,945,000

\$1,020,000
\$1,000,000
\$985,000
\$600,000
\$600,000



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BBAC approves flag holder, roof deck, and skylight

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) met for its monthly meeting on Jan. 8, where proposals were discussed for a flag holder on Newbury Street, enlarging a previously approved roof deck on Arlington Street, and install retractable skylight at the Algonquin Club on Commonwealth Avenue.

117 Newbury St.

First up was a proposal to add a Union Jack flag to the Fatface popup at 117 Newbury St. The architect proposed a flag holder that would be mounted into the ground right at the front of the store. She said that Fatface, a brand from the UK, has about 10 stores in New England and would like to have the flag at this location to “represent their roots in the UK.”

Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said that the only thing under review is the holder itself, since national flags are exempt from approval by the Commission. If the flag had any branding on it, then the Commission would be required to review it.

The architect said that it “wasn’t practical” to affix the flag to the side of the building, due to its rough and bumpy surface, and it would also be too much work for a store that is just a popup.

“It bothers me that it’s a precedent,” Commissioner John Christiansen said of the flag being mounted on the ground. He said he doesn’t mind the flag itself, “but the location bothers me.”

“I think it looks nice,” Commissioner Robert Weintraub said.

The Commission voted to

approve the application with the proviso that the holder is removed at the end of Fatface’s tenancy.

10-11 Arlington St.

Mark Van Brocklin of Embarc architecture firm came back with a different proposal for 10-11 Arlington St., as a previous one was denied at last November’s hearing. Van Brocklin said that in the rear of the building in the alley, they are proposing to remove the fire escapes from the top floor, as well as enlarge a previously approved roof deck and construct a copper-clad headhouse.

He said the headhouse would be for access to the roof deck and the mechanical equipment, and would not be visible from the public alley, Arlington Street, or the western side of the Public Garden. “You only see it when you get to the pond,” he said.

Tom High of backbayhouses.org said that these are “very important buildings” on Arlington Street. He said they are part of a group of four symmetrical buildings that were once part of a whole set of symmetrical buildings. “It’s important that modern things not be visible,” he added. “We want to really commend the architect and Joe [Cornish] on getting the height of this down. I think it’s acceptable.”

The Commission approved the application with the proviso that the approval does not constitute a precedence of any kind.

217 Commonwealth Ave.

Architect Guy Grassi was back before the Commission with another small proposal for the Algonquin Club building. This building has been before the Commission several times over the past

year, as it is undergoing a complete renovation.

This time, Grassi proposed a retractable skylight at the eastern courtyard of the building, as “my client would like to provide a four-season enclosure,” he said. He said that at six stories the Algonquin Club is taller than the adjacent building, so there wouldn’t be any issues with other buildings being able to look into the club through the skylight.

“The whole structure will be below the line of the party wall,” Grassi said, “not visible from any place.” He added that there are also no decks in the surrounding area, so the only way anyone could see the skylight is up above the roof lines.

Tom High called this an “excellent proposal,” and the Commission voted to approve it.

D-4 POLICE NEWS

PICKY EATER

On Monday, Jan. 6, at about 12:05 a.m., police responded to a radio call for vandalism in progress at 715 Boylston St.

On arrival, officers spoke to a Pine Street Inn employee, who said the suspect approached him when he was handing out food to complain that it contained pork, and since he was Muslim and therefore couldn’t eat it, and to ask for tuna fish instead. When the employee informed the suspect that the food he was handing out was all he had to give, the suspect became

irate and kicked the window off the side of the Pine Street Inn van. The officer observed a dent on the rear passenger’s side door, and that the driver’s side-view mirror at this time.

Police canvased the area for the suspect to no avail.

DRIVING IN THE DARK

On Monday, Jan. 6, at approximately 5:21 p.m., officers responded to a radio call for a motor vehicle accident with a pedestrian struck at the intersection of Berkeley Street and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Upon arrival, police observed a female in the street who was complaining of pain in the area of her right arm/wrist. Paramedics arrived on the scene to evaluate the victim, who said she was walking along Shawmut Avenue and crossing East Berkeley Street in the crosswalk when she observed the suspect driving and shouted at him several times to stop to no avail. At this time, the suspect’s front bumper struck the victim, knocking her to the ground.

The suspect, who was on the scene, told police was driving

down Shawmut Avenue when he turned right on East Berkeley Street, and that he had a green light. The suspect also said it was dark out, and that the victim was wearing a black coat, so he couldn’t see him.

The victim was transported to Tufts Medical Center for further treatment and evaluation.

GRAB BAG

On Thursday, Jan. 9, at around 5:24 p.m., a victim of a robbery flagged down an officer at 70 Worcester St. who said about 15 minutes earlier, two male suspects robbed him as he was walking

down Worcester Street towards Tremont Street. At this time, the suspects, who were walking in front of the victim, turned and confronted him.

One suspect then struck the victim in the face during a physical altercation that transpired after the suspects attempted to steal his GoRuck backpack, valued at \$2,650 and containing a 13-inch Macbook Pro, as well as several bottles of prescription medication in the victim’s name.

Police searched the area for the suspects to no avail.

For the Record

From the Jan. 16 Public Facilities Designer Selection Committee, 26 Court St., 11 a.m.:

•The Designer Selection Committee will meet on January 16 at 11 a.m. for the Quincy Elementary School Envelope Repairs Project. The Designer Selection Committee for the above referenced project will meet to discuss an appropriate designer. The meeting is expected to last approximately one hour and thirty minutes.

From the Jan. 16 Boston Groundwater Trust meeting, Lenox Hotel, 710 Boylston St., 3 p.m.:

•Adoption of Minutes from November 12th Meeting - :05 VOTE REQUIRED
•Financial Report and New Treasurer - :10 VOTE REQUIRED
•Distribution and Review of Annual Report - :10
•Discussion of the presentation made to the Board in November on Wood Piles and Sea Level Rise - :15
•Executive Director presentation on proposed changes to Article 32 (Groundwater Conservation Overlay District) zoning - :30
•Executive Director’s Report - :10
•Other Business - :10

From the Jan. 21 Licensed Premise Violations hearing, City Hall Rm. 809A, 10

a.m.:

•Baseball Tavern, Inc., doing business as: Baseball Tavern; 1270 Boylston St. Fenway. Date: 08/10/2019: Employee on patron resulting in injury, and Police not called for incident.

•Bhc Corporation General Partner, doing business as: Club Café; 209 Columbus Ave., Back Bay. Date: 09/15/2019: Over serving patrons, and Loiters out front blocking access and blocked aisles.

•Comm 973 Group LLC, doing business as: T’s Pub, 971 973 Commonwealth Ave., Back Bay. Date: 09/17/2019: Service of more than 2 drinks to 1 patron at a time.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that’s why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that’s blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.



BACK BAY PENTHOUSE

288 COMM AVE #PH
4 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 3,750 SQFT
\$8,950,000

Exclusive Marketing Agent for Four Seasons Private Residences, One Dalton Street, Boston



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4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 4,352 SQFT
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20 ROWES WHARF #707
2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,188 SQFT
\$2,100,000



180 BEACON ST #16E
2 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,409 SQFT
\$2,100,000



5 JOY ST #PH - \$6,999,000
4 JOY ST #I - \$4,950,000

