



Open Community Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2006, 7 p.m.

Jackson Mann Theater, Allston

Present: Ann Frenning Kossuth, Valarie Lima, Don Lubin, James Kossuth, Sarah Correia-Eck, Kathleen Okolita, Joy Gould, Bob Pessek, Kate Jordan, Jason Gould, Heather Knopsnyder, Carlos Archila, Casey Laurie, Dave Evans, Michael Okolita, Jeff Buschel, Marianne Moore, Joan Pasquale, Noreen Kennedy, Mabel Perry, Rhonna Garroz, Arthur Laurie, Audi Guha, Sgt. Finney from Boston Municipal Police.

- I. Don Lubin began the meeting with welcoming prefatory remarks.

- II. Ann Frenning Kossuth explained the purpose of the group and introduces various park advocates.
 - A. Bob Pessek spoke on behalf of the Parks Dept. Construction will resume on the tot lot as soon as weather allows. The police call box was recently installed.
 - B. Joan Pasquale spoke on behalf of the Parents and Community Build Group. [Amended June 13, 2006.] Interested persons can call 617-254-0632 for more information.
 - C. Sgt. Finney spoke on behalf of the Boston Municipal Police Dept. The police call box is to be used for emergencies only; not for nuisances. It goes to 911.
 - D. Heather Knopsnyder spoke on behalf of the ABGSA. The group meets the 3d Wednesday of each month. It is an umbrella group for greenspace in A-B. It works with other friends groups on various projects.
 - E. Jason Gould spoke on behalf of Crime Watch. It was formed about 3 years ago to reduce crime in the park. It meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Jackson Mann.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Joy Gould spoke for the Development Cmte. FORP is applying to be a 501(c)(3) non-profit for fundraising purposes. It will apply to the Browne Fund for money for gateway arches. She reports that Parks will fund fencing around the tot lot.
- B. Sarah Correia-Eck spoke for the Events Cmte. FORP is organizing a clean-up for April 29 in conjunction with Boston Shines. Other possible events for the year include a July 4th event and a Halloween event.
- C. James Kossuth spoke for the Master Planning Cmte. The Master Planning process has been on hold until the tot lot is done, but we expect to work with Parks after the tot lot is finished this spring.
- D. Don Lubin spoke for the Membership Cmte. FORP collects \$10 dues and hopes to foster civic mindedness.
- E. Valarie Lima spoke for the P.R. Cmte. FORP hopes to do a great deal of outreach to solicit support for the park and the group. We plan to flyer the neighborhood and reach out to persons in the neighborhood through positive p.r.
- F. Ann Frenning Kossuth spoke for the Web Cmte. FORP owns RingerPark.org, and plans to develop further and add to that site, with park history, information about the park, and announcements from FORP.

IV. Open Question and Answer Session

- A. A person asked about the \$10 dues. The dues cover overhead and operating expenses. There are no salaries. T-shirts and some other fundraising activities require funding upfront, and the dues could go to that as well. A person suggested that Signal Graphics might sponsor t-shirts.
- B. A person asked how often FORP meets. The Board meets monthly, and there will be an open community meeting quarterly.
- C. A person asked how the community would provide input to the group. FORP maintains a PO Box, a Web site with e-mail addresses, and a phone number. There are also committee

positions available for people who wish to participate actively in the group.

D. A person asked how FORP plans to reach out to non-English speakers. The P.R. and Outreach Cmte. hopes to find bilingual persons to help reach non-English speakers. FORP also plans to reach out through the schools. FORP plans to have translations on the Web site and a multilingual brochure.

E. A person asked why the board started meeting in private. FORP decided that it needed to formalize the group with by-laws and a structure and go forward with people who had put in considerable time and effort in previous incarnations of FORP.

VI. Don Lubin made closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.
Next open community meeting TBA.