City Point Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
01.08.13

Board Members Present: Joanne McDevitt, Joe Cappuccio, Ben Rogers, Marcia Campbell

Legal Advisor: Terry Byrne

Guests Present: Tom Butler and Jennifer Jackson, Sen. Hart's Office; Jake Bombard, Rep. Nick Collin's office; Sean Regan, Liaison from Mayor's Office; Mark McGonagle, Councilor Linehan's office. BPD Sgt. Timothy Gaughan; Officer George Belotte; Officer Christine Marini

BPD Community Service Officer Belotte indicated that except for a door and window being smashed on East 3rd Street and 2 motor vehicle's having been broken into, there were no incidents in City Point to report until a homicide occurred on January 7th at 335 W. 2nd St. According to Sgt. Gaughan the BPD are not releasing any information regarding this shooting and are keeping the investigation confidential.

There was a discussion about the disbanding of the Mass State Police Drug Diversion Unit ("DDU") by Mass. State Police and how it would affect ongoing drug enforcement efforts. BPD indicated they work with this team on a more or less "as needed" basis and that the DDU efforts would now be handled at the local level. Any questions concerning this should be directed to the Mass. State Police.

Jake Bombard from Rep Collin's Office gave a summary of the legislation that Rep Collins supported which created the DDU to improve the monitoring and tracking of the trail of prescriptions and reiterated Rep Collin's public opposition to this action to disband the DDU by the State Police. It now includes 40,000 doctors and follows how they issue prescriptions and to whom they are prescribed. Discussion ensued about how the work of the DDU can be accomplished at the local level given the fact that the DDU could not handle the substantial increase in enforcement efforts. Tom Butler indicated that Sen. Hart will also support legislation to maintain this unit and not defer the responsibility to the local and municipal governments.

It was requested again (ongoing issue) that something be done to slow down the speeding on E. Broadway and M St., L. St. and 4th and near crosswalks and in several other locations that have recently seen an increase in speeding vehicles and buses. Sgt. Gaughan will advise Capt. Greeland to see if we can implement some measures to curb this problem. Sean Regan suggested that we undertake an audit with data and an analysis be done to support changes and better public safety measures being made.

Office Christine Marini presented to the membership the new BPD App: www.crimereports.com and www.BPDNews.com which give the timelines of all incidents reported and it can be put into an email with updates including police report number.
This app reports the initial incident only, but gives the community information in one place regarding crime reports.

On Wednesday, January 9th there will be a meeting at the L St. Bathhouse, M St. entrance regarding the development of 815 E 5th St. It is proposed 35 units, 70 cars, 4-5 stories high. This is in a Green Zone.
BPD was thanked for follow up to resident complaint concerning 853 E. 3rd St. where there were ongoing loud and late parties.

Transportation Committee: Dave Matteo indicated that the East First St. Buffer Park is moving forward with Massport and the Residents Committee's involvement. The parking concerns are being reviewed and an open community meeting will be scheduled when these issues have been resolved.

Treasurer's Report: Ben Rogers indicated that as of 01.08.13 CPNA has a balance of $3426.00 not including checks that were given at the meeting.

Social: Kelly Hawkinson indicated there are some events that are being worked on.

Real Estate: Jim Coveno indicated that he and Terry Byrne are putting together a format for listing all current projects under review by ISD, BRA and ZBA in order to document issues raised by CPNA members for resolution by the Development and Zoning Committee. The report will give scheduled meeting dates regarding the projects and be forwarded monthly to elected officials for their positions on each of the listed projects. They will remain posted on the CPNA web site to provide our membership with a way of tracking the status of projects which impact our area.

A question was raised about 2 houses on P St. that were issued permits for "as of right" and then owner demolished one of the buildings. Sean Regan said he was waiting for an ISD report that was due in the morning and would take appropriate action to shut project down.

If you have a question regarding what might be a permit violation, or a project with no visible permit, call the Mayor's Hotline and report. It was also mentioned that at 821 E 6th St. a building was demolished and the permit was pulled after the teardown. The neighborhood is looking for a 2 year moratorium on building as there are currently 44 projects with the BRA and one inspector from ISD who does not work full time. Discussion ensued about ISD and its process for issuing cease and desist orders for violations in a timely manner. Instances cited where illegal work was substantially complete before ISD action and no fines issued.

Committees: Joe Cappuccio indicated that CPNA will be able to partner with the Perry School, after they assess some of their safety concerns. There was mention about the MBTA fence being broken and it's in the Red Zone. It is Joe's goal to continue to improve the environment and quality of life in City Point by making our Committees strong and focused moving forward.
Chair: Joanne McDevitt thanked everyone for helping with the 3rd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting and for those who donated food for the 10 baskets we provided, including turkeys for local families in need.

The SBNAC (all the neighborhood associations) raised $2000.00 for the Boys’ and Girls’ Club at the party held at the Sea Point.

The SBNAC is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Peter Meade, BRA Director, to discuss the need for a master plan for S. Boston. There will be a meeting at the Convention Center on 01.14.13 from 6:30-8:00 regarding two proposed hotels each with 250 rooms.

If you have a concern about your recent tax assessment increase, you can download the form from www.cityofboston.gov and file for an abatement, this must be done by February 1st.

We are requesting help for our Save the Harbor event that will take place in the spring, as planning has to start now.

7:40 Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Campbell
Secretary