

# Roslindale West Village Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting

June 24, 2021

7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom

*Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.*

## **Attendance:**

In addition to neighborhood residents, the following officials were present at this meeting.

- WVNA Board President Frances Donovan
- WVNA Board Members Alan Wright and Eileen Brennan
- WVNA Member Laurie Radwin with a report on 4198 Washington Street
- Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo
- Jordan Frias, Chief of Staff for Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo
- Michelle Wu, City Councilor at Large

## **Traffic Safety on Poplar**

- Crosswalk at Poplar and Florence will go forward.
- The traffic department says that the Poplar Park crosswalk is not a suitable position currently due to blind spot, but this issue is still being looked into.
- The sign on Delano is still being looked into. A stop sign at Brown and Poplar is still being looked into as well and is still in review. We do have commitment to a sign at Poplar Park.

## **Poplar Street Park**

- The city has committed to putting up a sign for the Poplar Street Park
- The subcommittee is seeking advice from Councilor Arroyo on how the council can be helpful in pushing forward the park progress. Councilor Arroyo will have availability in July to meet with the subcommittee. The budget for 2022 was finalized in June, so the park funds will be requested in the 2023 budget.

## **New Cannabis Business on Birch Street**

Kijana Rose introduced herself to the group and described the new cannabis business that she is opening on Birch St. She makes herbal blends and vegan baked goods, and is also known for her cannabis yoga. She can be reached at [kijana@iandirosegarden.com](mailto:kijana@iandirosegarden.com) and is available to answer any questions.

## **Erosion on Augustus Ave at 175 Poplar Street:**

- The neighborhood association welcomed David Ryan, the president of the newly created condo association at 175 Poplar.
- A gully is forming due to runoff. David says that there are plans to address the issue with landscaping.

- Discussion of some landscaping suggestions from Sherman Street Green Space Conservancy (aka Fairy Hollow) coordinator Ngaio Schiff.

### **Michelle Wu's Block Party**

Michelle Wu's Block Party is happening this year. She would like people to send her ideas for how to have this party safely. She could also use volunteers. The party is August 26th at around 5:00, set up is at 4:00, at the corner of Augustus and Crandall Streets. You can email her at [wu.train@gmail.com](mailto:wu.train@gmail.com)

### **4198 Washington Street Development:**

Councilor Ricardo Arroyo is in support of the project. It is 40% affordable and goes down to 30% of average median income. The location is well placed, near public transportation. The building will be four floors, and will be six feet lower than the height of the Roslindale Community Center. The theatre will become more prominent, the yogurt shop will stay, and a bookstore may possibly be a new addition. The project has community support from Walk Up Roslindale. It will help people of color stay in the neighborhood.

Laurie Radwin is not in support of the project as planned. She finds that there is information inequity and a lack of transparency with the BPDA. There is no off-street parking planned. Laurie cited studies that show that businesses *do* need parking available. Laurie could find no evidence of the study that people have mentioned about less parking helping businesses. She did find studies that linked parking to business vitality. Laurie believes a balance between affordability and business vitality needs to exist and marginalized voices need to be heard.

Comment from meeting attendee: Affordability can be unaffordable. People have to move out of affordable housing when they make too much money- there is nothing available for people in the middle.

Comment from meeting attendee: Less parking will mean that people coming from other neighborhoods will have a hard time visiting restaurants in the square. They think that new buildings should include parking unless there is a guarantee that people living in the building won't need it.

Comment from meeting attendee: People from Newton drive into Roslindale to visit restaurants.

Comment from meeting attendee: Customer parking shouldn't be impacted too much.

Comment from meeting attendee: The Square was historically taller than it is now.

Comment from meeting attendee: EV chargers and car share opportunities could be important factors, it's important to look at the whole project and understand that nothing is perfect.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.**

**Submitted by Eileen Brennan and Frances Donovan**