

Rose Kennedy Greenway Board of Director's Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
185 Kneeland Street, 1st Floor

Meeting Minutes

RFKGC Board Members: Georgia Murray, Young Park, Bob Gore, Chris Manfredi, Tim Morningstar, Helen Chin Schlichte, James Chan, Vivien Wu, Robyn Reed, John Pregmon, Maggie Hunt

Board Members Absent: Maeve Valley-Bartlett, Clinton Bench, Susanne Lavoie, Chris Fincham, Chris Betke, Jane Pappalardo, Cheryl Cronin

RFKGC Staff: Jesse Brackenbury, Amy Dwyer, Jodi Wolin, Steve Anderson, Linda Jonash, Shawn Meisl, Renee Wood, Charlie McCabe

Greenway board chair Georgia Murray welcomed all to the meeting and called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. With no comments or changes, a motion to approve the meeting minutes was made and duly seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved by a roll call vote. It was noted that November 2013 meeting minutes would be approved at the April 2014 meeting.

Investment Committee Policy

Ms. Murray called upon board member Martin W. Lynn to review the recent update to the Investment Committee policy. Mr. Lynn noted that the policy was updated mostly to change the references to the "Finance Committee" to read "Investment Committee". **A motion was made to approve the updated investment policy, duly seconded, and the investment policy was unanimously approved by a roll call vote of the board.**

One Greenway Presentation

Sean Sacks from the New Boston Real Estate Investment Funds and Janelle Chan executive Director of the Asian Community Development Corporation updated the Greenway board on the One Greenway Development and discussed the history of the project. They noted that the work of both organizations included community involvement in the design and use of the building and surrounding open space. Ms. Chan noted the affordable housing creation, commercial development and place making opportunities associated with the project. It was noted that the project has an anticipated June 2015 completion date and that that ground lease with MassDOT and city and state subsidies has allowed for the project to remain 40% affordable.

Development Update

Director of Development Jodi Wolin updated the board on the Conservancy's 2014 Gala, noting that it will once again be held on the Greenway on May 13, 2014 honoring Boston Properties. It was also announced that Alan Rottenberg and Gil Menna will be co-chairs of the Gala Committee. Ms. Wolin acknowledged Helen Chin Schlichte for her particular efforts in making the appropriate introductions.

Executive Director Discussion

Bob Gore and Chris Manfredi initiated a discussion regarding the Executive Director vacancy at the Conservancy for the last year. They noted that with Jesse Brackenbury in an acting capacity for that time, the FARMC needed to address the issue of leadership for the Greenway moving forward. Not addressing this issue could put the organization at risk on a number of levels. Both board members noted that Jesse Brackenbury is talented and could decide to move on to another opportunity if this issue is not addressed in a timely way. Jesse has been with the Greenway Conservancy for 4 years, has a very strong resume and would likely be a finalist during any search. He has essentially been on a yearlong interview in his capacity as acting ED and has proven that he has the respect of the staff, a solid grasp of day-to-day operations, has been the public face of the Greenway with external stakeholders and continues to grow in the philanthropic role of the executive director. The costs of a formal search and the salary savings with Jesse in the ED role (leaving the COO position vacant) are additional reasons for the board to make Jesse the new executive director at this meeting. A number of board members spoke to echo their support of promoting Jesse Brackenbury; they noted the balance that he brings to the position being able to keep the day-to-day operations running while providing the necessary leadership needed for the organization. Georgia Murray noted that with Jesse stepping up in an acting capacity and the support of senior staff, the organization has not missed a step in the last year. **A motion was made to promote Jesse Brackenbury to the position of executive director, duly seconded, and Jesse was unanimously approved by a roll call vote of the board. The board authorized Chair Georgia Murray and the FARMC co-chairs to negotiate salary with Jesse in his new role as Executive Director.**

Greenway Updates

Jesse Brackenbury presented an executive director's report updating the board on a number of issues including park winterization, light blade upgrades and programming, the city of Boston's no-smoking ordinance and the intent to support the city's efforts on

the Greenway, horticulture improvements including planters, volunteer program update and wrap up of the carousel season.

The board addressed some brief questions from the public on the lease extension, the Greenway's input with the city on street tree removal and 2014 food vending schedule. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.