

Rose Kennedy Greenway Board of Director's Meeting
Tuesday, April 8th, 2014 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
185 Kneeland Street, 1st Floor

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Georgia Murray, Clinton Bench, James Chan, Chris Fincham, Bob Gore, Chris Manfredi, Tim Morningstar, Jane Pappalardo, Young Park, John Pregmon, Robyn Reed, Helen Chin Schlichte, Vivien Wu

Board Members Absent: Chris Betke, Cheryl Cronin, Maggie Hunt, Susanne Lavoie, Martin Lynn, Maeve Vallely-Bartlett

RFKGC Staff: Jesse Brackenbury, Steve Anderson, Charlie McCabe, Keelin Purcell, Stu Shillaber, Bob Stigberg, Bart Thompson, Renee Wood, Robert Gordon, Jodi Wolin

Greenway Board Chair Georgia Murray welcomed all to the meeting with a quorum present at 5:32 pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 1/28/2014 and 11/12/2013 Board of Director's meetings. **With no comments or changes, a motion to approve both meetings' minutes was made and duly seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved by a roll call vote.**

Auditor Procurement

Board Member Chris Manfredi updated the board on the continuing procurement process. Five firms were contacted, and four responded promptly. Senior Financial Advisor Robert Gordon and Finance Manager Renee Wood met with the firms and evaluated each firm based on experience with non-profits, public-private partnerships, and general preparedness, with additional emphasis on IT security. Since its inception, the Greenway has engaged the same auditing firm and any change in auditors would be a first. The final selection process will be the responsibility of the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee at its meeting next week.

Presentation on One Congress Project

Tom O'Brien, representing the developer One Congress, gave a thorough report on the future redevelopment of the Government Center Garage, which abuts the Greenway's North End Parks. The Garage will undergo a reconstructed in stages, preserving its operating capability while the new buildings surround it. The project upon completion will add 855,000 ft² of residential units, one million ft² of office space, and 200,000 ft² of hotel space and at the same time provide for safer pedestrian traffic and better connectivity in the areas. The site will be fully developed in stages over a ten year period. An extensive study of how the new high rises will cast shadows over portions of the Greenway as the seasons change will be conducted. In response to a question, Mr. O'Brien noted that that the effect on the North End planting beds from demolition dust has yet to be determined.

Presentation on Radian Project

Forest City / Hudson Group have rechristened 120 Kingston as Radian Boston. The apartment complex which overlooks the Chinatown Parks is six weeks from opening. The building will have 240 units of rental space and 4500 ft² of retail. FC/HG plans to repair the bamboo cages, the stainless steel sail, and the red arch in the Chinatown Parks, and plans to wire electricity for a series of public art exhibits. Questions were posed from the Board about gentrification and the value of the building to the Chinatown community. According to the representative, the apartment building will become part of the fabric of the community, and could help alleviate current social problems by increasing the area's profile.

2014 Program Season

Director of Public Programs Charlie McCabe informed the Board of continued growth in revenue-gaining activities, particularly food truck vending. Eight new vendors have been added in 2014. The Greenway Carousel opens Friday, April 11th, and we hope to surpass the 53,000 tickets sold last season. There will be 74 farmer's market days on the Greenway this season, an increase from last season. Fitness events and large food festival events continue to bring visitors to the park, as do art and performance events. A primary goal is to inform these visitors about the Greenway's completely organic maintenance. A study regarding spending by visitors on Greenway and adjacent businesses has been conducted, and it is a goal to continue to glean information to improve the park for all visitors.

2014 Spring Park Operations Update

Director of Park Operations Steve Anderson introduced his team and commented on the unusually snowy winter in the 2013-2014 season, which has been the costliest yet for snow removal. Additional non-weather factors include snow removal in the Armenian Heritage Park and the Greenway Carousel.

Superintendent of Maintenance Bob Stigberg updated the Board. His department will be replacing 4 valves in the North End fountains, replacing tables, chairs and umbrellas, as well as LEDs in the sail. He has spoken with the Police Department about the upcoming Greenway Ranger program. The Maintenance Department continues to have opportunities for employment.

Superintendent of Horticulture Stu Shillaber updated the Board. Subcontractors for the pergola in the North End Parks have delivered estimates. The Parks will retain high-level elements, including street trees, and will add mid-level elements. Mr. Shillaber displayed images of the spring plant palette, including crocuses. The Horticulture Staff has worked with garden designer Lynden Miller for a future installation in the North End Parks.

Volunteer Program Update

Volunteer Coordinator Keelin Purcell informed the Board of goals for the volunteer program, chief among them informing the public about organic practices on the Greenway. Individual and group volunteerism has been increasing, and the volunteer program has expanded across departments. The Greenway has a full schedule for upcoming volunteer days, and regularly participating volunteers may have the chance to take on more responsibility. Ms. Purcell mentioned the possibility of virtual volunteering in the future.

Greenway Updates

In the interests of time, Executive Director Jesse Brackenbury gave a short summary of the upcoming park season. Director of Development Jodi Wolin informed the Board that pledges to the Gala are on target thus far.

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board Meeting was adjourned, upon motion made and duly seconded, at 7:05 PM.