



**WHARF DISTRICT
COUNCIL**
B O S T O N

MAY 16, 2017

Wharf District Council Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

Marc Margulies, WDC President	Lee Kozol, Harbor Towers I	Columbus Park
Susanne Lavoie, Exec. Director	Linda Gottlieb, Harbor Towers II	Captain Ken Fong
Chris Fincham, Treasurer	Heidi Wolf, Intercontinental Residences	Sergeant Doris
Tom Nally, A Better City	Michael Nichols, Greenway Conservancy	Officer Teddy Boyle
Matthew Murphy, Boston Harbor Cruises	John Larivee, Rowes Wharf Residences	Lt. Bill Meade
Leah Bishop, Harborside Inn	Joanne Hayes-Rines, Christopher	Maria Lanza, Neighborhood Services.

Marc Margulies, WDC President – Opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

FEATURED SPEAKER

State Senator Joseph Boncore. Senator Boncore gave his annual update on the Massachusetts Senate Legislative agenda.

Following is a summary :

- About 6,000 bills were filed in January 2017 with a proposed \$40 billion budget. The state has a revenue shortfall through April of \$462 million.
- Four main topics facing the Senate: criminal justice reform, marijuana, housing & transportation.
 - » Criminal Justice Reform: As a former public defender, Senator Boncore is aware of the issues and challenges facing the state in this area. In Massachusetts, 9,500 people are currently in jail with 1/2 awaiting trial. "If Massachusetts was a country, we'd be #1 in the percent of the population that is imprisoned." We are working on bail reform, sentencing (mandatory minimums), collateral consequences (loss of driver's license, etc.), recidivism (77%) and rehabilitation.
 - » Marijuana: Joint Committee
 - » Housing: Joint Committee. \$1.9 billion bond bill. Massachusetts is #1 in places to live; #44 in affordability.
 - » Transportation: MA is 45th in transportation infrastructure. MBTA needs \$7.5 billion just to make it safe and reliable. \$5 billion is needed for bridges. \$2 billion needed for roads. Need new revenue streams.

There was a question and answer period. The focus was on the severe traffic problems in the Wharf District, Boston and the roads surrounding the city. A comment was made that MA commutes are worse than L.A. commutes. The Senator informed the group that a study is being conducted with objectives that include come up with short-term and long-term solutions.

The Municipal Harbor Plan, having been approved by the BRA Board and currently before the Massachusetts Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs for approval, was a key concern for Wharf District Council members. Members requested Senator Boncore's support for 50% open space at Harbor Garage site. Members explained how BPDA changed the MHP draft before sending it to BPDA board for approval without notifying MHP committee members or the public. Senator Boncore pledged his support.

BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT A-1 MONTHLY UPDATE – CAPTAIN KENNETH FONG

Marc Margulies welcomed the BPD, acknowledged that it was Police Appreciation Week and thanked our District A-1 officers for all that they do.

In addition to providing his monthly update, Captain Fong brought Lieutenant Bill Meade to do a brief overview of security and street closures for this area during Sail Boston

Criminal activity in this area has been low. Two incidents of interest to the WDC included a break-in at Boston Harbor Hotel garage and on May 8 there was a bank robbery at a bank on State Street. \$380 was taken.

Lt. Bill Meade spoke to the group about Sail Boston, with police activities starting at midnight on Friday, June 16 with the removal of parked cars in designated areas and concluding on Thursday, June 22. For more information go to www.sailboston.com.

- No parking on Atlantic Ave. after midnight June 16
- Heavy security all along the harbor
- Handed out map of security check points, etc.

GREENWAY BEER GARDEN – MICHAEL NICHOLS, GREENWAY CONSERVANCY CHIEF OF STAFF

Trillium Garden on The Greenway is Boston's first fully open-air Beer Garden, featuring draft beers by Trillium Brewing Company and wine by Westport Rivers Winery! Located across from Boston Harbor Hotel between Atlantic Avenue and High Street, it will be managed by Trillium Brewery, Fort Point. Opening in early June, the days and time are: Wednesday - Friday 4pm to 10pm and weekends 11am to 10pm. There will be security lighting & security cameras and at closing all tables and chairs will be stored and the area will be hosed down. Security: there will be a person checking ID's at each entrance plus one walking around. There will be security on site until 4am.

There will be no table service and patrons can bring in their own food as well as purchase food from the food trucks located outside the the security fencing. They expect an average of 200 people and there are no private events

Community Events and Issues

MARIA LANZA, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

- Mayor's Coffee in Columbus Park, Wed., May 31, 9:30am to 10:30am.
- Discussions with Umbria on going and going well.

JOANNE HAYES-RINES, NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS UPDATE

- Goal: 2 barges on the harbor - \$40,000 per barge
- To date: Commitments that will fund one barge.

UPDATE ON 110 BROAD STREET CONSTRUCTION

The slurry wall concrete cap beam & excavation for the upper level of slurry wall bracing are complete. They are approximately 50% complete with this upper level of bracing. Next, they are scheduled to begin excavation to the lower level of slurry wall bracing and anticipate this will take roughly 3 weeks.

SAIL BOSTON 2017 – THE TALL SHIPS RETURN TO BOSTON

Saturday, June 17 to Thursday, June 22. Go to www.sailboston.com

WHARF DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATES

2017 Dues (Yearly Bills go out in June). Proposed Dues increase. Those not present will be notified. Vote will be taken by email..

STATUS OF THE MUNICIPAL HARBOR PLAN PROCESS

The latest version of the Downtown Waterfront Municipal Harbor Plan (MHP) altered the guaranteed 50% open space required in Chapter 91 for new development of the Harbor Garage just prior to being submitted to the BPDA Board for approval. This latest version was not reviewed by the MHP Advisory Committee (several WDC members are on this committee), was not presented to the community, was approved by the BPDA Board and is now before the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The WDC believes this lack of notification to the community deprived us of the opportunity to comprehend the impact of the changes and send comment letters. The modifications that were made prior to the Board vote destroyed some of the fundamental principles that are essential to our endorsement of the MHP. A copy of the WDC's most recent comment letter on the MHP can be found on our web site: www.wharfdistrictcouncil.org.

Vote taken: Unanimous approval for Greenway's Beer Garden.

Adjourned 7PM