



Wharf District Council Meeting

Meeting Notes

Tuesday July 18, 2023 | 5-7pm

Norman Leventhal Center, 30 Rowes Wharf
Join In-Person & Zoom

President Marc Margulies – Opened the meeting

Boston Police District A-1 Update - Captain Martin was in person for the meeting.

Captain Martin stated all is looking well:

- No homicides, rapes, aggravated assaults, B&E or robberies (commercial or residential).
- 1 auto theft - Enterprise Rental Car
- 6 larcenies (petty theft)
- Some issues with encampments, but working with coordinated response team

Guest Speaker: Nathaniel Fink, Boston Transportation Department (Transportation Planner) (Nathaniel.fink@boston.gov)

- The [Milk Street Better Bike Lane](#) project:
 - Sept 2022 - Major announced package of major bike lane projects
 - Protected spaced for bikes on busier streets
 - Quick build projects:
 - Roadway striping
 - Plastic flex posts
 - Changes Signal timing
 - Changes to Signage
 - Provide an eastbound pair to State Street

- Enhance downtown crossing as a walkable hub of the Boston region
- Create Legal space for deliveries and pickup/dropoff activity
- Design approach:
 - Pedestrian safety & comfort
 - Protected bike lanes
 - Minor changes to motor vehicle circulation
 - Changes to on-street parking

Nathaniel had internet issues and will return for the August meeting to complete reviewing the project plan.

Brianna Millor, Chief of Community Engagement

- Brianna spoke about these areas:
 - She oversees 3 departments: 311, Office of Civic Organizing (i.e. Beautification project and SPARK) and Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS)
 - Reforming the development process
 - Newly formed Planning Committee - includes Chiefs of physical places
 - Arts & Culture: Mayor committed \$7m into this space
 - Recent announcements from Mayor's Office:
 - Activation of vacant spaces - space grant to help utilize empty parcels
 - Residential conversion project for downtown offices
 - Street's cabinet - 2-3 RFPs for curb space for electric vehicle charging stations

Marc: WDC wants to meet with the Mayor, if Brianna can help facilitate that.

Matthew: Shout of appreciation to Ciara D'Amico, Neighborhood Services Liaison. She is engaged and communicative. He asked Brianna to help increase the Mayor's awareness of the WDC as a neighborhood group.

Corean Reynolds, Boston's Director of Nightlife Economy

[\(corean.reynolds@boston.gov\)](mailto:corean.reynolds@boston.gov)

- Corean gave an update to the WDC about the Nightlife in the City of Boston and what it will look like.
 - More robust, equitable nightlife for the residents and business
 - Liaison between city government and nightlife ecosystem to business, restaurants & residents

- Working with departments across the city to build sustainable programs
- Initiative: Night Committee (21 participants) - carry out the commitment of a vibrant sustainable nightlife (not just bars & nightclubs, but hospital staff, general hospitality, business owners, hotels, culture builder). 300 applications received

Matthew suggested coordinating with "Plan Downtown"

Susanne: they must coordinate with WDC regarding the nightlife in our community.

Welcome new Wharf District Council Member:

- PRIMITIV Boston, 200 High Street - opened July 16, 2023 - we look forward to having them join our meetings.

Wharf District Council Updates

- WDC Climate Resiliency Project - The [Final Report](#) presentations are being conducted over the next few months.
- State Street - Discussions with the City continue with the WD Community demanding the continuation of the 2 traffic lane design, not the 1-vehicle lane & 1-bicycle lane design the City is proposing.

Community Updates:

Joanne Hayes-Rines, President, Friends of Christopher Columbus Park:

- There will be a Sunset Harbor Cruise thanks to Boston Harbor City Cruises (donating 1st deck) on the Odyssey on August 8th. Boards @ 6:00. Departs 7:00. \$55/pp
- Joanne also commented on other opportunities in the neighborhood
 - Ferry to Lewis Wharf is free. Great opportunity to visit East Boston
 - Clambakes on Spectacle Island on Thursdays

Matthew Murphy, Boston City Harbor Cruises: a reminder due to the Sumner Tunnel Closure, allow for additional time (45 min) to get to the Wharfs for Boston City Harbor Cruises and boats & ferries.

- Winn Ferry Service
- Winthrop Ferry

- Salem Ferry - Special rates for North Shore residents on 1st trip
- Boston Harbor Now: community cruises (8/8)
- Free Ferry Days - George's & Spectacle Islands
- Whale Sightings have been tremendous

Stephen Johnston, Boston Harbor Hotel:

- Tuesdays-Fridays Live music (new genres including Country Music added)
 - Harbor Walk Terrace: affordable, quick/easy casual
 - Sea Grill: more refined dining
- 114th annual National Convention for NAACP, July 28 - 30, 2023
NAACP will be hosting free events in The Hub at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center
 - 1st time in over 40 years. over 80K people)

Ferdinando Bent-Mullings, owner of Rasta Roots on Broad Street: looking for space for blood drive w/Red Cross - Stephen Johnston offered space he manages - Leventhal Center - neighborhood source, not for profit. Contact Stephen or his assistant Sheila

Tim Carr, Assistant Gen Mgr, Old Town Trolley, promoted 2 summer events

- Ghost & Gravestones night tour
- Summer Nights Tour

Representatives from restaurants on State Street and Milk Street expressed their appreciation for the WDC's help with the continuing efforts to control the Bike Lanes in the WD neighborhood.

Heidi Wolf asked: Has there been any progress/updates on the Northern Ave Bridge or MHP . Marc said both plans have been tabled as far as he knows.

Next WDC Meeting Tuesday, August 15, 2023