**PMAC Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 8, 2020**

Below is the list of attendees and notes from the September 8, 2020 PMAC monthly meeting. The September meeting was held one week later due to the September 1, Election Day. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID 19 crisis in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Attendees:**

1. Jennifer Leonard – Co Chair PMAC
2. Bob Barney – SWCPC/PMAC
3. Scott Romney – Carleton Court Dog Park & SWCPC/PMAC
4. Mike Reinders – SWCPC
5. Hannah Phillips – Northeastern University Student Rep.
6. Tracy O’Brien – Co Chair PMAC
7. Caliga – JP Resident
8. David Wean – PMAC
9. William Jones, BPD E-13
10. Sgt. John Dougherty, BPD E-13
11. Sgt. John Farrell – Northeastern University Police Department
12. Jennifer Jones – PMAC SWCP JP
13. There were also 2 phone numbers on the call which did not identify themselves.

**Public Safety Updates:**

* **State Police – Lt. Jay Farley, Boston Barracks** 
  + Lt. Jay Farley from state police called Jennifer on 9/9 and apologized for missing the meeting due to scheduling/"wires crossed". He intends to be at PMAC meetings on a regular basis.
* **Northeastern University Police – Sgt. John Farrell** 
  + NU pulled statistics for the SWC section they help monitor and it summarized below.
  + NU Police have had a “directed patrol” in SWCP from Camden Street to Mass Ave where they find things problematic.
    - They had 244 needles reported over the last month.
    - NU asks officers to talk to those who have setup encampments, 64 incidents in the last month.
    - They use their “engagement” group to talk to those to encamp and try to help them move into a service. They also give them care packages to help people in need.
    - They will keep their directed patrol program in place.
  + They have a safety program in place for NU construction going on near Columbus Avenue and Melnea Cass.
  + Tracy O’Brien mentioned that some construction workers are hanging in out in the SWCP bike lanes and not always wearing masks. Sgt. Farrell will talk Lt. Caine, from NU Police, to address these concerns.
* **D 4 – BPD** 
  + No one was present at the meeting. Javier Pagan emailed to report on a question we had posed.
  + E13 reported that they are experiencing a 9% reduction.
* **E13 – BPD P.O., John Dougherty & William Jones** 
  + No crimes reported on SWCP.
  + 11 less incidents in Part 1 crimes year over year.
  + 1 robbery in August.
  + Burglary has gone down.
  + There were 2 more aggravated assaults this year.
  + Overall and YTD, there was a **17%** reduction in part one crime.
  + More domestic issues year over year as COVID keeps people at home.
  + Less break ins because perhaps people are home more.
  + Drug unit has been very busy in Jackson Square but not in playground or in corridor itself.
  + Stoney Brook has seen increased drug activity as well.
* **MBTA Transit Police** 
  + No one was present at the meeting.
* **B2 – BPD** 
  + No one was present at the meeting. CSO Michael O’Rourke emailed back to answer a question about a recent bike accident.
  + E13 reported that B2 is experiencing a 1% reduction.

**Community Updates**

* Summary of the Section 1 SWCP Walk Through with City & State Officials
  + Below are a portion of the minutes associated with the “SWCP Walk Through”:

“Neighbors members participated with State and City officials Thursday, 8/27, regarding concerns raised about the Southwest Corridor Park's safety.  The "walk through" purpose was to raise awareness and seek support and improvements from both State and City officials.  CNA residents have raised the following concerns about the park:

* Drug Usage in Park
* Drug Procurement and Sale
* Encampments
* Encampment Debris
* Human Waste
* Needed Clarity of Ownership between the City and State for problem reporting and resolution.
* Park Lighting Issues

The tour was organized by Claremont Neighborhood Association, PMAC, St. Botolph Neighborhood Association, Tent City, and the Southwest Corridor Park Conservancy.  Fasia Sharif, City of Boston Neighborhood Liaison to the South End/Bay Village and Cory Amzon, Legislative, Aide to Jon Santiago. arranged the meeting.   
  
Key State and City Participants of the tour include:

* State Representative Jon Santiago
* City Councilor Ed Flynn
* Boston City Council President Kim Janey's Chief of Staff Samuel Hurtado
* City of Boston's Liaison for Homelessness James Greene
* City of Boston's Director of Recovery Services, Jen Tracey
* Special Assistant Mayor's Office Kim Thai (Mass/Cass 2.0)
* Massachusetts State Police

Unfortunately, MA Department of Recreation and Conservation (DCR), who owns the care and control of the park, cancelled their participation the day of the tour. Jon Santiago's Office will reach out to DCR to schedule a second walk through.  DCR is responsible for care and control of the park.   
  
Some actions and solutions offered during the walk included:

* Replace lights along the Southwest Corridor that are not working.
* Increase lighting at Copley Place across from Tent City.
* Prune hedges that are overgrown and create opportunities for sheltering for drug use, encampments, or stashing personal items.
* Increase Mass Police patrols along the corridor.
* Improve communication of problems between the city and state resources that support the park.
* Mass & Cass 2.0 Initiative acknowledged the burden that has been placed on our neighborhood by the homeless, drug addicted and mentally ill, which is exacerbated by the pandemic.  They are looking for ways to alleviate the burden on the South End and adjoining neighborhoods.”
* **Park Education Discussion – Using Mini Grant Funds** 
  + We discussed plans for a series of youth lesson plans about the SWCP and Emerald Necklace that will supplement our youth & family programs.   Please see the draft at the link below and be ready to help brainstorm about it.... what organizations/people could help to develop this?  What topics or ideas would you like to see included in it?  And other ideas about content, audience, development, and delivery of this new project.
    - [http://resources21.org/cl/files//project765\_3735/Boston\_Parks\_and\_Greenspaces\_as\_a\_Case\_Study\_in\_Civic\_Engagement.docx](http://resources21.org/cl/files/project765_3735/Boston_Parks_and_Greenspaces_as_a_Case_Study_in_Civic_Engagement.docx)
  + $1,500 mini grant not committed but could be used to support this program since we only had 1 applicant this year (due to COVID).
  + It was suggested we look at Speak for the Trees or the “My Story” programs that involve education relevant and interesting for youth. Below is link Speak for the Trees.
    - https://www.sfttbos.org/education-and-outreach
* **DCR Updates & Project and Subcommittee Updates**
  + No one from DCR was at the meeting.
  + Park goers cannot get through to DCR about things like Skate Park, JP Dog Park, etc. We need to figure out how to better communicate the status of projects along the park.
  + Johnson Playground has made a big difference to park goers.
  + Lighting is still out in several places on park. Rose Garden lights have been out for five months. Lighting outages is a high priority of park goers since it increases safety issues.
* **Annual PMAC Meeting** - Save the date for annual meeting, Tues., November 10th
  + Zoom meeting format will be used.
  + PMAC to determine who could be a guest speaker for the event. Some suggestions made include Senator Chang-Diaz, Rep. Santiago, or an advocate of parks and/or sustainability.

Meeting adjourned at approximately at 8:35 pm.