

**PMAC Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020**

Below is the list of attendees and notes from PMAC's February 4, 2019 meeting. The meeting, which began at 7:00 pm, was held at 82 Green Street in the Jamaica Plain section of Boston. The meeting had many Jamaica Plain residents to discuss and advocate for a Dog Park.

Attendees:

1. Jennifer Leonard – Co Chair PMAC
2. Tracy O'Brien – Co Chair PMAC
3. Bob Barney – SWCPC/PMAC
4. Jenny Jones – SWCPC
5. Pat Driscoll – DCR
6. Scott Romney – Carleton Court Dog Park & SWCPC
7. Boston PO William Jones, E-13
8. Marsha Sasson – Carlton Court Dog Park
9. Ralph Walton – PMAC
10. Fredrick Vetterlein – PMAC
11. Boston PO Javier Pagen, D-4
12. Ben Gedeon – DCR
13. Boston PO Michael O'Rourke, D-2
14. MA State PO Mike Conley – Michael.Conley@pd.state.ma.us
15. Allison Comport – JP Resident – comportallison@gmail.com
16. Brett Van Dorn – JP Resident – brett.vandorn@gmail.com
17. Brad Rohles – JP Resident – brohles@gmail.com
18. Gina Rohles – JP Resident – gina.n.mouses@gmail.com
19. David Runkle – JP Resident – daverunkle@gmail.com
20. Melissa Hamel – JP Resident – Melissa.hamel@gmail.com
21. Ester Yi – JP Resident – estriey@gmail.com
22. Greg Price – JP Resident - gpandmb@gmail.com
23. Leah Lammer – JP Resident – leah.lammer@gmail.com
24. Simon Jagels – JP Resident – sjagels@gmail.com
25. Ben Goodman – Bikes Not Bombs – bhagoodman@gmail.com
26. Jasmine Wilson – Bikes Not Bombs – jasmine@bikesnotbombs.org

Public Safety Updates:

- **D- 4 – BPD P.O., Javier Pagan**
 - No incidents on the SWCP or near the park.
 - Crime is up overall in Area D-4 (South End/Back Bay) 4% with most change across categories.

- **E13 – BPD P.O., William Jones**
 - No incidents on the SWCP.
 - 10% reduction for January crime, year over year, in E 13.
 - PO Jones talked about a group of about 25 young people roaming through the E 13 area committing petty crimes. They have also been committing robberies. E13 is working with various groups.
 - MA State Rep Nika Elugardo is working with E 13 to help mitigate the gang and representatives from Jackson Square are involved.
 - Many issues regarding needles, gloves debris, and defecation issues were mentioned by JP residents in areas where they currently take their dogs. They were encouraged by the group to call 311 and record these incidents.

- **MBTA Transit Police**
 - No one was present at the meeting.

- **B2 – BPD P.O. Michael O'Rourke**
 - 5 crimes near SWCP but none on the park. Some specific crimes noted were:
 - 779 Parker St. – Package theft. Please call 911 when this happens.
 - 737 Parker – Back window in a house was open and a laptop was taken.
 - 1131 Tremont – An individual met someone on Facebook and was sold fake air buds.
- **State Police Sgt. Mike Conley**
 - This was Sgt Mike Conley was asked to sit on tonight's meeting. Sgt. did not have any specific information regarding crimes on SWCP.
 - Concerns, in the past, were raised in the area between Annunciation Road and the Police Station.
 - Concerns in the past were also raised about Massachusetts Avenue.
 - There is one officer that patrols the SWCP Monday to Friday with weekend coverage a bit less formal.
- **Northeastern University**
 - No one was present at the meeting

Community Updates

- **JP Dog Park Discussion (JP Residents)**
 - There were about 10 JP residents that attended the PMAC meeting to determine the status of JP Dog Park. A recent resident's dog was killed when hit by a car and this event prompted a renewed interest in how to move forward on developing a dog park in JP. Allison Comport led the discussion for the JP residents. The group had a strong sense of community and have formed an informal group of approximately 50 people.
 - The group had several questions & comments for PMAC:
 - DCR has not provided PMAC or residents with an update.
 - Several people liked site "A" but knew there was opposition from nearby neighbors.
 - PMAC is neutral on location and want to encourage an open discussion.
 - Marsha Sasson led a discussion of how she a few other neighbors created Carlton Court Dog Park in the South End. Below are a few highlights from the Carlton Court's Dog Park experience.
 - The Dog Park was created in an underutilized basketball court
 - The small group made some physical adjustments to the court over time.
 - DCR was not initially supportive.
 - DCR matched donations one for one but not always used for the dog park.
 - Carlton Court found it essential to organize and create a board with defined officers.
 - Carlton Court bought water fountain.
 - Carlton Court put in a double fence.
 - It was important to put together a visual package for neighbors and to present to PMAC.
 - Carlton Court got Neighborhood Associations to support and endorse.
 - The initial organizational work took about a year and half.
 - The Dog Park led to increased safety of the park due to the engagement and presence of dog owners.
 - **Actions:**
 - Marsha to see if she can find and send booklet they used to make a case for the dog park..
 - PMAC to make an official request for a public meeting in the spring 2020.
 - JP Dog Park group needs to engage neighbors and get their alignment with design and impact on neighbors.
- **Bikes Not Bombs (Ben & Jasmine):**

- Bikes not Bombs (BNB) presented a proposal for a Pump Track to be located within the City of Boston. BNB have been around since the 80's. Recycle bikes and then sell them or donate both domestically and internationally. Below is a link to their website for further details of the organization.
 - <https://bikesnotbombs.org>
 - The Pump Track's demographic is geared toward younger people of color and should be located in a section of the city that is accessible for this demographic. BOCA (Bikes Organizing Community Action) was described by Jasmine and how it can support youth development/to support the need.
 - BNB has funding of \$7.5k that needs to be spent within a specific time limit (end of 2020). Cost of building a track is about \$10k (if dirt). A track that is made of dirt is far less expensive than one of pavement or asphalt type surface.
 - We discussed many sites on or near the park but there did not seem to be an appropriate location. PMAC will continue to consider possible sites.
 - BNB also mentioned another Pump Track in Allston. Below is the link:
 - <https://www.yelp.com/biz/smith-park-pumptrack-boston>
 - **Actions & Decisions:**
 - PMAC has put Ben and Jasmine in contact with City Councilor, and City Council President, Kim Janey to see if there are other locations that may be suitable.
 - PMAC to consider other sites the SWCP and provide back to Ben and Jasmine if a match is found. In the interim, Jennifer Leonard sent the following information:
 - Some other parks you might look at for your research --
 - 1. -- Mary mentioned that there was, or is, a dirt track in Cutler Park, which is a state park along the Charles River in Newton, which could be a good example of biking in state parks. I looked it up and see that there is mountain biking there, and I am not sure what other types of biking, and will see what I can ask people at DCR.
 - 2. -- The Lynch Skate Park is under the Zakim Bridge at the new North Point Park, on land that was part of the Big Dig. It is a large skate park, designed for all types of wheels including BMX. It is technically in Cambridge, close to the Museum of Science. Here is a link that describes it. There were too many people talking at the meeting (sorry for that) when it came up, and we didn't get a chance to say more about it. It is interesting as a reference.
 - <https://www.californiaskeatoparks.com/Projects/Lynch-Family-Skatepark->
 - **Atherton Street Pollinator Garden (Jenny Jones):**
 - Jenny Jones presented the concept of creating a butterfly garden with wildflowers, bees, and butterflies in the Southwest Corridor on the Atherton Street overpass in Jamaica Plain, Section III.
 - The location is currently underutilized.
 - The site would be split into three phases, with areas being developed sequentially.
 - **Actions & Decisions:**
 - DCR is requested to supply a truck load of soil 3 to 5 cubic yards for the project. Neighbors will be asked for donations.
 - Jenny will be reaching out to immediate neighbors for input for the proposal and the design.
 - Pat Driscoll expressed concern that the addition of wildflowers would attract trash to the area, and be hard to manage. The idea is still being discussed and refined.
 - Jenny will try to build a volunteer group to actively steward this area, once created.
- PMAC members encouraged Jenny to move forward with planning for the Pollinator Garden; we can talk more at a subsequent meeting about the plan, including planting area, plant choices and maintenance.**

The meeting ran late and adjourned after 9:00 pm.

Appendix:

Some other parks you might look at for your research --

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