

East Boston PierPAC

May 16, 2017

Attendance:

Mary Berninger
Fran Carbon
Edie DeAngelis
David Halbert
Sal LaMattina
Rose Petraglia
Melissa Tyler

Karen Buttiglieri
Peter Cardinale
Jerry Deneumoustier
Mary Hanlon
Adrian Madaro
Frances Piantedosi

Connie Carbone
Florence D'Avella
Marie Deneumoustier
Bernardine Joslin
Karen Maddalena
Bob Strelitz

Associate Members Present:

Lucille Drago

Lucille Monuteaux

Mary Romano

Attendance taken. (Edie DeAngelis and Florence D'Avella joined via telecommunications. David Halbert, Sal LaMattina, Adrian Madaro arrived a few minutes into the meeting.)

Mary Berninger - Questioning if everyone has read the minutes? Deletions or additions?

Bernardine Joslin - Motion to accept.
Connie Carbone - Second.
Voted and passed.

Mary Berninger - Grant proposal for the YMCA. Have received and reviewed extra information; spread sheets, art supplies, etc. Bridgett said she could leave the proposal as is and she would itemize all lines. There were some questions that came up. She would remove the administrative line altogether and do this in kind over the course of the summer or keep the funding as we did for last year. She would go back to this year's proposal and balance it out, come out to this figure and resubmit for approval. I sent a letter to the Port asking for the authorization to spend the money. Just waiting for Mr. Glynn's signature. After reviewing it I know you added the arts and crafts which is a great program for the kids. But as I looked it over and I know that every thing else is free, but with a lot of programs in the community there is a small fee for some of these things to happen. It occurred to me, just to cover the cost of supplies portion, that might have covered it. Know that it is not on there, just a suggestion I had. Would like to recommend to the group that we do what I had suggested last month. That we keep it at a level funding from last year because we cannot be perceived in the community as an extension of the Foundation. Feels the Grant from last year was very generous.

Karen Buttiglieri - Dollar for dollar what was the amount from this year and last year?
Mary Berninger - \$7500 up to \$10,200.

Karen Buttiglieri - And the reason for the \$10,200 was for the arts and crafts?

Mary Berninger - And to cover administrative costs and as I have said last month, the administrative costs are covered because they are on salary to begin with. As President of this group I would like to recommend that we simply level fund this. Other wise, as I have said last month, the perception would be out in the greater community that this group is another Grant maker of the community. We have to protect those assets because we are going full steam ahead with Phase II and we need those assets.

Karen Buttiglieri - Also, with the level funding, would like to make sure that the proposal is exactly what they are giving us. In other words, they are not going to stop arts and crafts and all the things they are going to have. Do not know what the administrative costs are.

Mary Berninger - It was a line item. They did say they would change some of the advertising. Just feels this group has to be very careful how we proceed.

Bob Strelitz - And how we are perceived.

Karen Buttiglieri - Just want to make sure that what they said is what they will provide.

Mary Berninger - They have not announced it to the public yet because they came to us for that additional thing. Questioning if they would be able to do it without that Grant in place.

Brian Hanley - We are working on how much the Grant is going towards and then we would be able to put the schedule together. Then from there, we would be able to put out exactly what we are doing for the public.

Mary Berninger - Questioning what he thought about her idea about a very small fee. The Sailing Center has begun free sailing but with a \$25 administrative fee. Feels any summer program where children participate typically, there is a slight fee. Also feel we have to be careful because we are in the realm of planning for Phase II and we have to protect those assets and those resources.

Karen Maddalena - We should put it on the table for discussion. Thinks arts and crafts are important and even though they asked for an amount last year, we have to take into consideration that everything else is more expensive this year. Everything has gone up. Feel it is not right to make them pay for arts and crafts.

Mary Hanlon - Do not understand when you say a fee. To take the arts and crafts program, who will pay? Where will they get the money?

Mary Berninger - If a parent wants them to do the arts and crafts component of this programming in the 2 parks, even if it is a \$5 or \$10 fee just to cover the cost of the supplies. Arts and crafts would be done at Piers Park.

Mary Hanlon - Feels \$5 or \$10 is a lot of money for some families.

Mary Berninger - Respectively disagree. There are many programs that a lot of kids go to. There are already other components of it that is free in the park. Do not mean to be redundant but there is only so much money in this fund and the lion share of it is supposed to be allocated for Phase II. We do not know what our hidden costs are yet. Consultant fees, etc., a lot of unknowns. I think we do risk being perceived as an organization that can just start writing grants for everything and that is a very slippery thing.

Fran Carbone - I would like to say a motion. Instead of going from \$7,500 from last year to the \$10,200 this year maybe we could split the difference. Give them that small increase of between \$7,500 and \$10,200. Things have gone up, salaries, supplies, etc.

Karen Buttiglieri - Not taking salaries into consideration. They are going to get paid anyway.

Karen Maddalena - If we start charging a fee, the administrative costs are going up because they have to keep lists of the children who are paying the \$5.00. Questioning if for some reason a child is there for one day and they haven't paid the \$5.00 does that mean they cannot participate that day.

Mary Hanlon - And who will keep track of that?

Bob Strelitz - Thinks that in light of what has been said we should level fund and leave the option to the Y, the managers, as to whether they want to charge a small fee or not.

Rose Petraglia - Do we have to do this every year?

Mary Berninger - If they apply for a Grant we have to have a discussion on the matter.

Bob Strelitz - This is something we have done for the last 2 years and it seems to work out very well.

Karen Maddalena - Feels we have to take into consideration the cost of living.

Mary Berninger - I think that is true but we also have a fiduciary responsibility, this Board does, to preserve those funds in such a manner that they will be readily available when we begin the planning for Phase II.

Sal LaMattina - Last year we gave them \$7,500 and they are looking for \$10,200

Brian Hanley - That's because we are adding an extra weekend and adding the arts and crafts.

Sal LaMattina - I think where we are short \$2,000 we could get Massport to take part when we go through the whole process.

Bob Strelitz - Motion to level fund same as last year and if the folks want to discuss with us next year specific things and you are doing to justify a bit more money, that's fine. Last year worked out well.

Melissa Tyler - Second.

Karen Buttiglieri - Discussion on the motion. Questioning if you are doing yoga at the park, doing everything and only adding one thing.

Brian Hanley - We are doing everything we did last year. Maybe certain classes would change, but the same number of programs. Adding an extra week of how long we are holding the programs and adding arts and crafts.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if they take attendance to see how many people attend each session.

Brian Hanley - Yes.

Bob Strelitz - Maybe at the end of the season you could share that with us.

Karen Buttiglieri - I tend to agree you (Bob) even though my heart is with you (Brian). Think we need to have more information. You need to come down with better numbers, a better break down when you come to us. Same thing happened last year when we asked for that. I think not to have the youth activity is terrible. Sort of torn. We need to have better numbers to know how many kids you actually think will be coming for the arts and crafts on a daily basis.

Brian Hanley - Our estimate is somewhere between 10 and 15 per day.

Bob Strelitz - Feels you will get a good reputation and more people will come.

Karen Buttiglieri - For \$2,800, that's a lot of money. Would like to request an extra \$1,000 on top of the \$7,500 level funding.

Adrian Madaro - Second.

Mary Berninger - We have a motion on the floor.

Adrian Madaro - The extra \$1,000?

Mary Berninger - We have the other motion. Anymore discussion on the other motion?

Sal LaMattina - I support the \$10,200 because it will involve a lot more kids. It is the activities we have been waiting for, for years and years in the park.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if Sal is saying he supports the \$1,000.

Sal LaMattina - I support their original request, the whole thing. Talking about getting activity in the park.

Mary Berninger - When I mentioned, because a lot of us have had children in programs, even if it is a small amount, you assume ownership of the program. The Sailing Center has added, for the EB kids, a

\$25 registration fee. Feels they would come and attend. A lot of them were not coming at all. Feels if you are paying a small amount you're acknowledging the value.

Sal LaMattina - Questioning if a kid is playing in the park and he wants to do arts and crafts and doesn't have the money.

Mary Berninger - Parents have to be with them. They won't be just dropping in. Know it is a tough one but our first and primary responsibility is the mission of the PAC. The biggest thing we are doing right now is to build Phase II. Think we should, it is just my opinion and we can vote on it, preserve the funds in the greater amount for the park.

Adrian Madaro - Questioning how much we have in the bank. An estimate?

Karen Buttiglieri - About \$220,000

Adrian Madaro - Support Karen's additional \$1,000 because I think they can do good work with it and it sets up something where, if they want the \$10,000 next year. Let's see what they do with the \$8,500. If they do better work, touch more kids with the \$1,000, we are not going to feel it.

Bob Strelitz - I withdraw my motion and support that.

Sal LaMattina - At the end of the day this is mitigation for the 5,000 parking spaces. Not going to tell me they are not going to design this park.

Karen Buttiglieri - My motion on the floor is the \$7,500, the funding last year and give an additional \$1,000 towards the children's art supplies, for a total of \$8,500.

Bob Strelitz - Second.

Peter Cardinale - There was a motion on the floor.

Bob Strelitz - I withdrew it.

Mary Berninger - We have a second on that motion to increase it to the \$8,500. All in favor of the extra amount.

(Vote taken: 17 for \$7,500 plus additional \$1,000. 2 opposed, Sal LaMattina and Mary Berninger.)

Mary Berninger - Questioning Anthony, if he brought the signed letter. (He did not have the letter. Richard or Mary will contact him.) So by the end of the week we should bring it all together. Good luck with the program. Check will be \$8,500. Will have Richie draw up the agreement and contact Fran with the information. Massport has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and different publications for people who want to be considered for working on Phase II. The contract is in for \$1,500,000. There is a woman here, Laura Jazinski, from the Trustees of Reservation.

Adrian Madaro - Would like to give her an introduction. We went to grad school college together. Laura works with the Trustees. In The Globe on Sunday, the Trustees of Reservation are interested in doing some exciting work on waterfront parks. They worked with us on the Greenway. We have an opportunity to potentially leverage the funding from Massport and add additional money to make the best park possible with the support of the Trustees.

Mary Berninger - Before you do that I would like to finish my instructions, just want to be on record. Over the last few months I received different communications from Laura and the people for whom she works; John from New York. He was the gentleman who was interested in doing a field trip to New York and he wanted to know how he could help with Phase II. I explained to him that there was a process to go through. Know in your letter you had asked if I could find time to meet with you. This is where we do the meeting. I was supposed to discuss it today with a couple of individuals, but the conference call couldn't happen. My perception of it is that, the RFQ has been issued and I consider it appropriate that we wait until which ever principles submit their information. The conduit will be Massport, then we have our subcommittee and then we have this body. I think, prior to Massport's

receiving the sheet for qualifications, I believe it would be inappropriate for this group to talk with any of those people yet, outside of that process. I do not want it to be perceived in the community or the park building realm out there, that anybody jumped the gun or the line and had an opportunity to present themselves to this Board prior to our seeing the documentation that you submit to Massport. I was not comfortable answering you in an email. I would rather have full disclosure, do it right here in transparency. We do not even know yet who is going to submit those documents. Feels it is a little bit premature to be discussing this. We have all seen the information in the newspaper but we do not have it in writing yet. Maybe in June or July, this group could plan a night, and invite anybody who answered Massport's request, to come at pre-assigned times during that meeting to present.

Adrian Madaro - Want to add a couple of thoughts. Laura wanted to stop by to introduce herself and listen. It's premature for them too because while I am excited for the opportunity to leverage the \$20,000,000 Massport has committed with \$10,000,000 more from the Trustees and have a \$30,000,000 park which would be the best park we could get in the community. They also are not ready to commit to East Boston. They are looking at 3 locations. This is a good opportunity for us to meet Laura and see potentially who they are and understand them.

Mary Berninger - Just in the interest of full disclosure. The email reads: "I know that Vidya was in touch after the Trustees waterfront initiative was featured in the Globe and to let you know that I recently joined the team to work on this exciting project. I am writing to see, if you have a date for the next PierPAC meeting. Would like to attend and meet you in person. We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet about the RFQ for Phase II of Piers Park that Massport released. It would be great to update you on our progress and better understand your perspective on the process moving forward. Would the afternoon of May 31st work for you and John will be in town that day". I'm trying to explain to the group that this paragraph (from the email) in my opinion, takes it out of the process that Massport has begun with the RFQ. It is inappropriate, in my opinion, for them to come and say working on this exciting project, the waterfront initiative. We are well aware of working on the waterfront initiative from an East Boston viewpoint because we are the PAC. Wanted to that put into the record and that it is a little bit premature.

Laura Jazinski - I apologize if that was how that was read. Wanted to explain that we are a little bit different, than another group, that might respond to an RFQ because we are not engineers or a landscape architect. We are the oldest land conservation organization in the world. We come with a kind of cultural programming and it is different. We try to figure out how we would respond to this process given that an RFQ has been put out. Just wanted to come tonight and listen. Vidya and Jeremy were on the East Boston Greenway. Put my face with the Trustees now that I am going to work on this initiative. Just to introduce myself.

Karen Buttiglieri - If okay, through the chair, would you be able to tell us a little bit about the work you are doing in other waterfront?

Laura Jazinski - The Trustees of Reservations is the oldest land conservation organization in the world. This kind of focus on the waterfront comes from 2 different strategies of the organization One being a coastal strategy where the largest landowner of coast line in MA, private land owner. Interested in what sea level rising and climate changes doing to those properties. Also looking at that most of the Trustees properties, 116 of them, are out in the North Shore, South Shore, and western MA. The mission is to expose people to special places. Rather than take people out towards where those places are, let's celebrate the places where the people are. How we reclaim some of the land on the coast and on the Boston Harbor and if there are opportunities that create parks that do that in Boston. We are looking at East Boston, South Boston waterfront, Northern Avenue bridge. The idea is to look at all of them, and how they can become a network on the harbor. We will be pursuing all of these. They all have different time lines, community needs, etc. Also, how we can celebrate our harbor and create open space.

Karen Buttiglieri - So when you do contribute/decide on one or the other groups or waterfronts that you like, do you put restrictions on it or just do you just write out a check?

Laura Jazinski - Different ways of acquisition. We hold reservation restriction of amusements as one way. Also, land acquisitions. When the Trustees started a long time ago it was property that was left by wills. Now it is much more acquisitions. We would maybe purchase the land or if it is public land we would figure out a deal with that.

Karen Buttiglieri - So with Massport you would not be able to do any of that.

Laura Jazinski - This is a very early conversation. I apologize for the Globe article, it was a leaked article. Not something the Trustees placed. It came out well though, got all the points out there. It was great because it built momentum, excitement and we got a lot of positive feedback. But we had not come to talk with you yet and that was not our intention.

(Edie DeAngelis questioned who the speaker was. Mary gave her name; Laura Jazinski, from The Trustees of the Reservations.)

Mary Berninger - As Anthony and the Port begin to amass that information, we will look at it with them. Thinks it would be great if each group came back and present it before we pick a final person.

Bob Strelitz - These are open meetings. You are always welcomed here.

Peter Cardinale - (To Adrian, unintelligible.)

Adrian Madaro - We still have a lot of work to be done on their end and our end.

Mary Berninger - On the New York/New Jersey field trip. Before we contact anybody down there, how many people think they would be interested to take a bus tour down there to see the parks there? Thinks Richie said it would be a Saturday. (Took a count. Would be about 9 people.) If you did not want to bring your spouse you could bring an associate members that wanted to come. Under Old Business. Want to bring you up to date about the possibility of the flashing light at Bremen and Brooks St. Mr. Benedictus (COB) said that right now they do not want to do that because it is an existing intersection controlled with an 'all way stop sign'. This type of control is more restrictive because it requires all motorists come to a complete stop before entering. He travels through this intersection frequently and believes removal of the 'all way stop' would increase pedestrian/vehicle conflicts and likely result in higher travel speeds on Bremen St. Since motorists would be required to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk, rather than stop in the intersection whether there is a pedestrian in the crosswalk or not. As of right now that (a traffic light) is not going to happen. Next. The woman writing to Massport is upset about her perception about the way it involves personnel matters. She said she wanted to be included in PierPAC meeting. I sent her a response that there is no invite list. It is held every third Tuesday and everybody is welcomed to come and give their input. She answered okay and she is not here again. This is the third invitation. Do not know where she is from. She also wanted to know the official rules regarding park and playground closings. She is aware of the rules for ball playing, etc., but not the ones regarding the closings. I feel it has been explained to her; that it closes around dusk and consistent closing in inclement weather, etc. She is insistent that it should be left up to parents to bring their children to the park. Have invited her to come here to air her concerns. Her absence speaks volumes.

Bob Strelitz - Nobody needs an invitation. This is an open meeting.

Mary Berninger - Under New Business?

Karen Buttiglieri - As you all know the Piers Park Sailing program is having a wonderful raffle. \$20 per ticket, chance of winning \$1000 in scratch tickets.

Alex DeFronzo - Karen came up with this idea months ago. She is an expert at it.

Karen Buttiglieri - Took the idea from the Pingaro Scholarship. Thought it being the PierPAC, we could do 300 and get \$5000 instead of \$3000.

Alex DeFronzo - We are having a fund raiser at LaSiesta in Winthrop. Karen singlehandedly raised over \$1000.

Karen Buttiglieri - Have to say my Facebook friends and you all donated. Bob gave me a hefty check also. Feels it was the social media. If people like what you are bringing out there, they are more inclined to give and having the website I was able to capture a couple of hundred dollars.

Alex DeFronzo - You came to us with this idea, you made it work well for us and it snow balled into a lot of other things that have been helpful. Feels that what you did will bring a lot of people to the fundraiser on Monday night. We recruited a new Board member who is a former instructor in the program and who did a lot of the effort getting the fundraiser set up. We are grateful.

Mary Berninger - Think Karen's point, when we talked about it, that a lot of people, with their schedules, cannot go to an event but that (a raffle) is easy to do.

Bob Strelitz - LaSiesta, in Winthrop, Monday at 5:00pm?

Karen Buttiglieri - It's on Woodside and they donate 10% back to the Sailing Program; the proceeds from the food. Its like a win/win.

Alex DeFronzo - We have over 300 kids enrolled in the summer program and half of them are from East Boston. We are doing the fees for the first time this year because it has always been free, but the response has been great. It worked well and we raised a significant amount. Still have a few other things in progress. Working on Massport, and Anthony has been working hard at the \$25,000 match. We opened up May 1st and started our first adult instruction, which was a full class. This Friday we are starting the program with the Bedford VA. 20 disabled veterans coming down, all through May and June.

Mary Berninger - Questioning if they have had a chance to touch base with the Boston Foundation and answering all those concerns they had before.

Alex DeFronzo - Submitting an open door grant application to them this week. Sal has been helpful with that. We learned that they changed their guidelines as to what they were looking to support. They realized there were a lot on non-profits that would not fit those targeted things so they added the open door grant process. They had a huge number of requests last year so a lot of them were denied. So this year we spent a lot of time working on this proposal. We wrote it to expand programming for the kids from EB in the spring and fall. Would like to start the funding in the fall.

Peter Cardinale - Questioning where the veterans are coming from. where

Alex DeFronzo - Coming from the VA in Bedford. A significant number are physically disabled. 20 vets coming Friday.

Mary Berninger - A lot of people in the community came up in a huge way. Questioning if Anthony has anything to add.

Anthony Guerriero - Just today, participated in a consultation meeting, 30/40 people. Capital Programs talked about Phase II. Nuey Hoag will be the project manager. Legislatively mandated the view of the PAC and also we will have community meetings. Overall I thought it was a good meeting.

Bob Strelitz - Could you just pass along to the legal department that we are waiting with great anticipation on the new Operation, Security and Maintenance agreement.

Anthony Guerriero - Will do.

Discussion on an Orient Heights problem. A notice was sent to a neighbor, landscaping vehicles being parked on Annavoy/Bayswater St. People coming around from Bayswater St., truck blocking and people coming from Annavoy St. almost had a head on collision. Massport dd a drive by, and it is a city of Boston issue (the parking of construction vehicles on city streets).

Mary Berninger - To Sal LaMattina. Person owns a landscaping property near the flagpole and he is parking his landscaping trucks, quite frequently, along Annavoy St., and on Bayswater St. Bobcat, digger, etc., overnight and weekends. Two cars cannot come around those streets. Instead of putting them in his yard to find a storage yard he is using those streets to store his big equipment.
Sal LaMattina - Will talk with the Captain (PD) about it. He will probably tag him.

Fran Carbon - Questioning if we heard anything about preferential treatment about the Tall Ships regarding the PAC.

Anthony Guerriero - Regarding the Tall Ships. This is being run by the City of Boston and Dusty Roads Adventures. The City is planning something at LoPresti. Massport doing 2 things. Something in South Boston at the EMT, an open space which is going to be developed for fish processing and something for South Boston. In East Boston we are doing something at Piers Park. We are working closely with the State Police and BPD and choosing a level of security (indistinguishable) as of the President's Inauguration and the Super Bowl. I have been told that everything from Maverick Square down is going to be shut off for that day. No access by vehicles, only by foot. Shutting off all of Sumner St. and the side streets off of Sumner St. Massport is doing something at Piers Park. You will be scanned in and screened. We are doing an ad in the newspaper. You will be able to bring chairs, blankets. We are looking at getting food and ice cream trucks at the park. Other things happen in East Boston, we do not want a rush of people coming into Piers Park. There are over 6 acres and in past experience, the festival that happened 5 years ago, it got swamped. Security will be very tight, gates will be shut off. The food trucks will probably be in the parking lot. The City of Boston is trying to do something at LoPresti. There will be other sites along the Harbor Walk where people will be able to visit. It is a transient type of population. The Parade of Sails starts at 9 and ends at 3. People will probably go in and stay for a couple of hours and then leave. More information will be forth coming.

Fran Carbone - So you will open the Park at 7:00?

Anthony Guerriero - Do not know that yet. I am scheduled to be on site at 5:30. Thinks this is a big security concern and it will be a challenge to get there.

Fran Carbone - So all of the streets that feed off of Sumner will be shut down.

Sal LaMattina - It will be very difficult to get down there.

Bernardine Joslin - My question is how will I get down there with my handicap? I use The Ride. I can't walk down to Piers Park. Will have to give a call up to the Governor's office. This prevents the handicap access to the waterfront.

Anthony Guerriero - Good question, do not have an answer. We are following the guide lines of Home Land Security.

Sal LaMattina - Home Land Security has taken over the event. We will have dump trucks blocking off the streets.

Alex DeFronzo - Just what we are planning on doing. We got approval from the Coast Guard in Boston and we have an application into Massport. If approved we will take the sail boats out, anchor them at the end of the cove and then shuttle people out to sit in a boat to watch. If there is interest here we could dedicate one of them to the PAC.

Fran Carbone - Questioning how many to a boat.

Alex DeFronzo - Comfortably 6.

Edie DeAngelis - Questioning if we could have a brief clarification of why Massport is putting out the RFQ. And what is happening to Marion Presley, (undistinguishable) that we worked so hard and long so many years ago?

Mary Berninger - It wasn't an RFP it was an RFQ, Request for Qualification. It doesn't mean that Marion can't also put in a proposal. This group will work with Massport to choose the final person. The version of the park that you did design is the launching point of this process.

Eddie DeAngelis - Questioning if that will be modified.

Mary Berninger - That remains to be seen. Can't answer that because some elements might stay, the whole thing might stay, some elements would be added that maybe hadn't been thought of before. This is a work on progress.

Eddie DeAngelis - Thank you and thank you for the opportunity to participate, except we could not hear the last speaker.

Mary Berninger - Motion to adjourn if no further discussion.

Jerry Deneumoustier - Motion to adjourn.

Connie Carbone - Second.

DRAFT