

# *East Boston PierPAC*

**August 15, 2017**

**Attendance:**

Karen Buttiglieri	Connie Carbone	Fran Carbone
Peter Cardinale	Florence D'Avella	Edie DeAngelis
Jerry Deneumoustier	Marie Deneumoustier	David Halbert
Mary Hanlon	Karen Maddalena	Rose Petraglia
Bob Strelitz	Melissa Tyler	

**Excused:**

Mary Berninger	Bernardine Joslin	Sal LaMattina
Adrian Madaro	Frances Piantedosi	

**Associate Members Present:**

Alex DeFronzo	Lucille Drago	Lucille Reed
Mary Romano		

Attendance taken. (Edie DeAngelis and Florence D'Avella joined via telecommunications. David Halbert arrived a few minutes into the meeting. Liana LaMattina attended representing Adrian Madaro's office.)

Karen Buttiglieri: Vice President chaired the meeting in the absence of Mary Berninger

Karen Buttiglieri - Questioning if everybody had an opportunity to look at July's minutes. Additions revisions?

**Changes:**

LIAG stands for Logan Impact Advisory Group. It should be spelled out and then initials may be used.

Under Nuey's comments: it should be 'meeting' not 'meting'

Under Anthony Guerriero's comments: the amount should be '\$50,000' not '\$50'.

Karen Maddalena - Would like to make a clarification about the notes. First of all there is an advisory committee of the East Boston Greenway Council (EBGC) and the Friends of the East Boston Greenway. As far as the safety meeting that Mary went to, there was a communication error. It was the safety one she was talking about in the notes, when they met with Joe Lawless. There was no representation from the East Boston Greenway, but there is an advisory council. We have worked very hard with the security and the caboose. The Parks Dept. has sent out an RFQ for people to use the caboose. There is a process for doing that. Moving forward the Greenway Council will be at safety meetings. So therefore, we appreciate the fact that Mary stepped up to the plate to help out, but there is an existing advisory council. Wanted to make that clear. I am president of EBGC.

Richard Lynds - Questioning who coordinated the safety meeting.

Liana LaMattina - Representing Adrian Madaro's office. It was a combination of my office as well as Councilor LaMattina's office. At the time we reached out to Mary, Jesse Purvis and a few others. It was coordinated out of a request to the elected officials, out of some concerns constituents had. Received your email today and it is noted that in the future I will make sure we have multiple contacts with the Greenway Council regarding any security issues there.

Karen Maddalena - What had happened is that Jesse Purvis is going to law school and the current work he is doing is with regard to his law school expertise. And for one reason or another he did not notify

Adrian's office that he was unable to go. But, it has all been cleared up, do not want to be redundant, so you all got the message.

Karen Buttiglieri-Just to follow up. Apparently this meeting was not part of the PierPAC meeting. It was a safety meeting and Mary was reached out to, and she was able to attend. But it is not her fault that other people were not there.

Karen Maddalena - Did not say that. This was just for clarification.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if Karen thought there was an issue with the PierPAC.

Karen Maddalena - Just wanted to make people aware of this and advise. The Greenway Council has worked for 20 years and we are currently working to extend the Greenway into Winthrop.

Bob Strelitz - Somebody needs to make a motion to approve (the minutes).

Connie Carbone - Motion to approve.

Mary Hanlon - Seconded.

Voted and passed.

Karen Buttiglieri - Next item on the agenda is Anthony Guerriero.

Anthony Guerriero - In June's meeting Mary had asked about a community commitment event to acknowledge the progress and work of the Logan Impact Advisory Group (LIAG). We talked about where we would go forward with Phase II and the work and the agreement to do the Senior Center. Planning something in early September. Working with Councilor LaMattina's office and getting some work done through the City Council. We are doing an operational commitment for the new Senior Center in Orient Heights and then have an event acknowledging that we are going to start the process with East Boston PierPAC and the others involved, regarding Phase II of Piers Park. Do not have a date yet, thinks it is sometime in September. Working with the Mayor's Office in terms of his schedule and the 3 elected officials in East Boston. Then dealing with Labor Day. In September we have a couple of requests. Excel Academy is looking to expand their footprint within their campus footprint. We met with them last week, they sent over a copy of their plans to expand and we made a strong recommendation that they speak with the PAC and do a presentation. Believe they are doing a couple of community meetings. It will be in the northern section of Bremen St. Park. Taking down a fence on their side, doesn't seem that it will have an impact with the operations of the park. In the meeting was myself, Joe Lawless, Roberta representing legal, and Chris McKinsey, the property manager for Bremen St. Looking to start in the fall. They are up to 3 grades now; Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors.

Karen Maddalena - When they talk about expansion what are they going to do?

Anthony Guerriero - They are adding an addition to one of their pre-existing buildings. Not that big, maybe 8 class rooms.

Karen Maddalena - Reason I am asking is, I went to the Library today and the school is in full swing and you could not fit another car in the parking lot, it was so full.

Anthony Guerriero - The Principle said he was surprised how full the parking lot would become in such a short period of time. This is the first year and they have 3 grades there.

Karen Maddalena - I am sure they parking on Bremen St.

Anthony Guerriero - Getting a lot of activity with kids coming through Wood Island and the Neptune back area. It is going to be a lot of co-ordination because they'll be doing this work in the fall. It will not impact the northern section of Bremen St. Park, but we want to make sure everyone is on the same page and we made the strong recommendation that they come here. Thinks they have been in contact will Mary about next months PAC meeting. This is the new Excel Academy High School.

Karen Buttiglieri - Find it ironic that they want to expand when their original plans were larger, but they did not have the funds, so they scaled back on the size of the property. If I'm right this was at one of the meetings that I attended, and now they are going to expand again, but they are going out not up.

Anthony Guerriero - There are height restrictions because they are in a direct flight path for arrivals.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if they can come here and run through their plans.

Anthony Guerriero - Need to schedule to come to next month's PAC meeting.

Liana LaMattina - Questioning the height restrictions.

Anthony Guerriero - Do not know because it is arrivals. This happened to a couple of developments in greater Boston because of the height restrictions established by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration).

(Discussion on the height of the State Police building.)

Anthony Guerriero - Received another request through the library, working with the city of Boston. Showed different types of housing modules that might be available in the city. This was done at the Copley Square Library. Different types of modular homes, pointed tops, etc., have different images of types of construction. We had a conference call with the library, with Mary, etc. Last year the Trustees of Reservation had the Japanese Garden and it was a huge success. Part of that was you could write notes in the Garden. Same with this. You could ask questions and then you could write answers, etc. Did not want to make it look like the library, or Massport or the Bremen St. Park is supporting some type of development. Told them to go back to the drawing board, take a look at property owned by the city of Boston. They are going to revisit this. Mary had some concerns. Also, as a selfless hug, I am a big baseball fan and I am giving a talk on Tony Conigliaro at the East Boston Library, next Monday night at 6:30.

Karen Maddalena - In East Boston Times?

Anthony Guerriero - In the Times last week, 50th Anniversary of the Impossible Dream.

Fran Carbone - Can you tell us about Jason Ruggerio.

Anthony Guerriero - Jason Ruggerio has been with Massport for 2 years in the Maritime Division. He does the operational stuff, licensing agreements, etc. He has been handling that and helping out with the community things. He will be representing Massport at community meetings and alleviates me from doing it. However, I am still the Assistant Director of Community Relations and now Federal Relations. I am the point of contact for the Mass Congressional Delegation; Capuano, Markey, Kennedy, etc. I deal with them on a weekly or issue basis. Still involved with the community stuff. I am always available, orchestrating things, community events. The PAC is my organization, I am the point person for the PAC. Will be in New York.

Edie DeAngelis - Anthony, is the East Boston flag still flying in the park?

Anthony Guerriero - Flag is flying and will all summer.

Karen Buttiglieri - Under Old Business.

Richard Lynds - Anthony covered the conversation that Mary was involved in; the housing, not on the park property.

Anthony Guerriero - They wanted to do it on library property. From the dimensions it may not work, not level ground there. We had a lot of questions and we recommend that they go to city property.

Richard Lynds - Assuming that if it involves the park, the immediate concern, never mind the policy issues, it would probably be more about giving equal time to other people with policy and issues.

Suddenly becomes a corner for advocacy for policy in the park. Some parks, that's part of their mission. The Greenway certainly has that ability to inform the greater community at large. But do not know if that is the intent of the parks. If on city property, that's one thing but if it isn't, it becomes a sort of slippery slope.

Anthony Guerriero - You said it better than I explained it. That would be like if I got a phone call from Roseland, would not want you to put our module out there, next to apartments.

Richard Lynds - We can talk off line on the update for the park. Questioning if we have a list and taking a shuttle as opposed to taking a bus.

(Discussion on the trip. 16 people on the list and they will be taking a shuttle. Secretary, at this point in time, not involved in the planning.)

Karen Buttiglieri - We can ask the question to Mary of how she is going to facilitate it.

Karen Maddalena - So at some point someone will be sending out an itinerary to the people who will be attending.

Karen Buttiglieri - If it is a flight they will need a lot of information. So Mary will have to get in touch with everybody.

Richard Lynds - Spoke with her this morning and she will have updates at the beginning of next week.

Mary Hanlon - Questioning if the plane is final.

Richard Lynds - More likely flying and a bus will be chartered out of New York.

Karen Buttiglieri - 6 hours on a bus one way and then back, that's not a good trip. Feels (flying) was the best solution. The person in New York would know how to schedule/get around.

Melissa Tyler - Wanted to talk about the dog park. Have talked to the people over there and I have reached out to Anthony over this. I do go there and I am part of the original team. As for the smell, I do not have a problem with the smell if we have a several hot days in a row, but if it rains, the smell goes away. I did talk with Anthony about an enzyme that could be used.

Anthony Guerriero - Forwarded it to the guys over there, they have not gotten back to me.

Melissa Tyler - It is not an expensive process, it is an enzyme, not a chemical. Walking along there, it is tired looking because the dogs are digging, but it is not full of poop or trash. People pick it up. If people are complaining about something give them my email or phone number. Have reached out to people that have made comments on the Dog Park's Facebook page. They want to co-ordinate clean ups, etc.

Nothing comes of it. Have spoken with Anthony if questioned about smells/problems. When we have hot spells and very dry, it rains and goes away.

Mary Hanlon - Questioning why you have to wait for rain.

Melissa Tyler - We have sprinklers but they do not cover the entire area.

Richard Lynds - Questioning if there is a designated group that is responsible for the park.

Melissa Tyler - April was, but she lost her dog, had a baby and has moved away. Andrew Pike was also involved, but I am out there, I do respond and I do use the park.

Richard Lynds - Almost seems as if it would make sense to have a group, so that it doesn't fall only to you, a point person.

Melissa Tyler - I just reach out to Anthony and ask hm.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if the crushed gravel is working out.

Melissa Tyler - Perfect, dogs love it.

Karen Buttiglieri - Prompted Edie to go ahead with her question.

Edie DeAngelis - Did not hear previous conversation so I do not know if they were talking about Belle Island Marsh or a dog park. I hope that PierPAC would take a stand to oppose a dog park at Belle Isle

Marsh. We worked too long and hard to get that as a natural area, not to have it turned over, partially, to a dog park. We could make a statement, write a letter.

Karen Buttiglieri - We have no jurisdiction. Not here to make statements about other park systems, not our responsibility.

Richard Lynds - The members can do it on their own, but not the organization.

Edie DeAngelis - Think it would be a disgrace if you are going to chase away the natural life from the Belle Isle Park. I may have missed this while I was in the hospital. I wonder who has given Piers Park Sailing Program authority or permission to tamper with the sails? They have advertisements on the sails.

Karen Buttiglieri - First of all they are privately funded. They are not funded totally by Massport anymore.

Edie DeAngelis - Saw on Facebook all of these signs.

Alex DeFronzo - The sails we had were very old, ripping. We had to replace them. To buy a new sail and jib, which is the smaller sail on the front, costs about \$2700. The Sailing Center went through serious financial distress. In the winter we had no money and went into \$80,000 in debt on the credit line. Difficult to raise money for capital expenses like fixing the boats. Most foundations do not want to support that. They like to support the youth program, the adaptive programs, etc. One of the things we thought to do was to get sponsorship to subsidize the cost of buying new sails and the youth programs. We have a number of different organizations that are sponsoring sails and by the end of this year all of the boats will have new sails for the next 3 years. The organizations that have sponsored this are: Massport, MG, Al Herald, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, Eastie Farm and 1 more. We put their logo on the sails and it pays for the sails and pays for 3 or 4 youth scholarships, so the kids can go to the summer programs free. DCR bought the rest of the sponsorships.

Bob Strelitz - Don't think you are talking advertising, just the logo of the donating party.

Alex DeFronzo - We tried to do it as tastefully as we could. So it says Piers Park Sailing Center in the front with the number of the boat and the sponsors logo on the bottom.

Mary Hanlon - Even if it does say something like Whole Foods, what difference does it make.

Edie DeAngelis - We worked long and hard for that sailing program. Many people were opposed to it.

Karen Buttiglieri - Different situation today. Back then it was 100% funded by Massport. It is no longer that way. So in order to survive it needs to be creative. If being creative like this and having a logo of someone that is willing to spend \$2,700, that adds additional funds for kids to go on the boats. They do not have those kinds of funds and neither do we. They are doing everything they can to make money; raffle tickets, parties, etc. They have to be creative and we all want them to survive. Understand where you are coming from, but in order for it to work they have to be creative.

Alex DeFronzo - If Massport wanted to fund the Sailing Center again, we would go with all plain sails.

Karen Maddalena - Edith, the PierPAC also endorsed them and wanted them to be innovative in raising money to keep the Sailing Center going and everyone agreed with what they proposed to do.

Karen Buttiglieri - They needed to be innovative and we were all in favor of that to keep the program going.

Bob Strelitz - I have been a supporter of the center since it started and I am not in the least bothered or affronted by people contributing money to get their name on the sails. Nothing wrong with it.

Karen Buttiglieri - Any other new business?

Matt Barison - Tried to come to some of the meetings in the past. Questioning the status of Phase II and what is the role with this group in determining what kind of programs will be available in that space.

Richard Lynds - Anthony can answer the status of Phase II and then we can talk about the process and the role of this group.

Anthony Guerriero - Back in late spring a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) went out to get architects for Phase II of Piers Park. An internal committee has been created to take a look at those submittals. I had a conversation with Mary Berninger and we would like members of the PAC to come in for a briefing. There is no set design as of yet, just concepts that have been around for several years. Hopefully we will get an architect on board around the same time this group goes to New York. Then we will work with Massport staff and that architect to work closely with the EB PAC to look at a multitude of ideas. Like with any other project we do in the community, work with the PAC to inform the various parties. Jeffries Point Neighborhood Assoc., the people that moved into buildings 5 and 6 which is part of Roseland, etc. Moving forward, the East Boston PierPAC is the lead in the Community.

Richard Lynds - To answer the question about the role of the PAC and this organization. The Legislative authority that established this organization designates this group as the recognized advisory committee for any activity on East Boston piers, including piers 1, 3, and 5 which involves Roseland, as well as the Phase II area, the existing Piers Park and what was known as the potential lobster terminal which was never completed. The role and the charge of this group is not only to provide, as an advisory role to the Port Authority as to the actual operation, security and maintenance to the parks, but also to the final design and any input the community may have to be brought through this organization to the Port Authority in an advisory capacity. However, the Port does not have to listen to us. I think it would probably not be the best decision of the Port Authority to not listen to the community on input for things like the type of programming that would occur in the park, whether or not there is commercial activity in the park, whether or not part of the park is converted, active/passive recreation or if there is other elements to the park that should be added that are not necessarily something that the community might want to see. Those are the types of things that this organization is charged with the responsibility of handling. When it comes to what the Port's ultimate decision is, because it is their property, we believe we have a great deal of weight in making those decisions working in conjunction with the Port Authority.

Anthony Guerriero - There was a good rapport established with this group over the past 20 years. Pier One opened in 1995. This group worked with the architects and MassPort to convert that area and the same thing with Bremen St Park. We did not build Bremen St. Park. There was a group, Friends of Bremen St. Park, that helped design that and then, legislatively, we were assigned maintenance and security. We still do not own it, but we maintain, secure and operate that park in consultation with this group.

Karen Buttiglieri - For me as someone who lives in the neighborhood that's involved in neighborhood activities, one of the key areas is the Sailing Program. So I am going to advocate as much as I can for funding for the sailing program. For them to get the lift that they need and other things. So that is what I am going to be advocating for.

Ales DeFronzo - Whether the park, when it is completed, is either active or passive, one of the things we are doing right now is jointly applying for grants from the BARR Foundation, with the Social Centers, Zumix, Main Streets, and other non profits that already provide programming. They have already spent over \$7 million around the waterfront and advocate to make it publicly accessible. They just put out an RFP (Request for Permit) for people to build out programming in waterfront areas on the park. The applications they put in is enhancing some of the services that already exist in Piers Park and when Phase II is finished there would be an opportunity to go there with things like concerts, etc.

Karen Maddalena - To Anthony: Do you foresee the Trustees of Reservation having anything to do with Piers Park II?

(In the process of answering Karen's question, Edie could not hear the answer. Anthony reiterated what he said.)

Anthony Guerriero - Karen Maddalena asked if the Trustees of Reservation would have any input or effect on the construction of Phase II. The Trustees did come in to meet with some members of senior staff which includes our CEO Tom Glynn. Mr. Glynn told we needed to see something in writing, however, we made a commitment to the East Boston community and we made a commitment to the East Boston PierPAC. They are the sole voice on design and we would be closely working with them. Also, if there were any other area they would be looking at, to forward those to us. There was an article in the Boston Globe last week. The Trustees were also looking at city owned property in South Boston. One of those piers near the tent. The Trustees have some good money, they were here at one of meeting. They were looking to make an impact, but if it was here or South Boston, can't answer that question. Our focus is too work with you on Phase II.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if the Trustees have guidelines for any property that they would be responsible for.

Anthony Guerriero - The Trustees, from my understanding, are probably the largest land owners in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Karen Maddalena - The Boston Natural Areas Network and the Trustees, 2 separate organizations, they merged together and are just called the Trustees. They took over all the community gardens and they were supposed to outreach into the urban community to work with us. And, thus far, there has been very little evidence of them working with the urban community.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if that was Valerie Burn's group.

Karen Maddalena - Valerie was part of the Boston Natural Areas Network. When we had the Boston Natural Areas Network, as far as the Greenway was concerned, they supported us and we had a staff member that worked with the Greenway Council and we did a lot of things, and that is why the Greenway looked much better. But, when the Trustees took over, they withdrew all support from the Greenway Council and we do not get any staff support from them. The Greenway Council had to go out and hire a landscape architect, Gretchen Rapkin. She worked with planning the Greenway.

Edie DeAngelis - We should never forget Valerie Burns and Nancy Kaska, they were tremendous and they were great advocates for East Boston and they financially supported us by including gardens, greenways, etc. We should never forget who they were and what they did for East Boston.

Karen Buttiglieri - Any other business.

Bob Strelitz - I make a motion to enter into executive session in order to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law including the PierPAC enabling legislation and specifically Chapter 33 of the Acts of 1991 as amended.

Karen Buttiglieri - A motion has been made to enter into executive session, is there a second on the motion?

Fran Carbone- Second.

Karen Buttiglieri - Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing no further discussion, all those in favor say Aye, all of those opposed say No. They ayes have it. The Motion carries. This will conclude the public portion of the meeting. The Membership will now go into executive session for the purpose of discussing compliance with the enabling legislation creating the PAC. The PAC will not resume its public meeting at the conclusion of the Executive Session and intends to adjourn thereafter.

DRAFT