

# BPNA, INC

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes (amended) August 13, 2009

**Time and Location:** 7:30-9:15 pm, home of Rob Sperling  
**Directors Present:** Margaret Buss, Hal Edmonds, Sally Flory-O'Neil,  
Dave Philipp, Rob Sperling, and Catherine Turrill  
**Directors Absent:** Marc De la Vergne

### Secretary's Report

The July meeting minutes, composed by Sally during Catherine's absence and previously shared among the Board members via e-mail, were approved without changes.

### Treasurer's Report

Hal distributed copies of his two-page report. In discussion, Sally was asked if any more supplies needed to be purchased for the annual Spaghetti Dinner on September 12. She explained that whether or not we needed to buy additional beverages depended on the weather: when it is hot, there is less demand for wine from the adults. The main additional cost is Pete Bramson's insurance for the event held at his home.

### ParkBeat Content for September 2009

While our editor Asha is away on vacation following the bar exams, Catherine has agreed to assemble the newsletter. Robert offered advice about the formatting (Cathy LaPlante will be able to figure out how to arrange the articles on the pages). We agreed that the stories about the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner and annual SOCA tours should be on the front page of the newsletter. We also agreed that no stories were needed on either NAG or the water meters.

### Article Topics/Authors, September issue of ParkBeat:

- Historic home: Asha (already provided)
- Spaghetti Dinner: Sally
- SOCA Home Tours: Catherine and Margaret
- NNO thanks: Sally
- Louise Barbosa's Hundredth Birthday: Catherine
- H Street Trolley Line: Margaret
- Friends of the River Banks/Grant Park: Catherine
- New/renewing members: Sally
- Call for volunteers (space permitting): Hal
- Real estate (space permitting): Dave

### Alley Activation Update

The issue of building on alleys (such as "stitch development") recently came up in an e-mail exchange shared with the BPNA Board members. We agreed that the Board should  
**(next page, please)**

communicate its concern about historic preservation: any plan put forth by the city needs to address this issue, also taking into consideration the context of the proposed alley development project (a “one size fits all” plan will not work). Margaret agreed to draft a letter expressing the Board’s sentiments.

### **SOCA Home Tours**

Catherine and Margaret reviewed the plans for the Home Tour on September 20. The eight houses included in the tour are: 1822 G Street, 2020 H Street, 2111 F Street, 2117 F Street, 2130 H Street, 627 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, 2211 G Street, and 2401 H Street. The street fair will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street median between F and H Streets. The post-tour dinner for homeowners and Home Tour volunteers will be on the 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Street Common in the middle of the 600 block (between F and G Streets). Arrangements already have been made for the tables and chairs used at the street fair and post-tour dinner. Other points discussed included:

- The possible participation of a bicycle cab (still under discussion)
- Staffing the BPNA table at the street fair: Dave and Sally volunteered
- Distributing copies of the fold-out Boulevard Park flyer at the street fair
- Possible sale of the gift cards with sketches of historic Boulevard Park homes by Ed Cox (Margaret said she still had a supply of these on hand)
- Possible availability of signed copies of the Boulevard Park book (the two authors, Paula Boghosian and Don Cox, have volunteered to be house docents; Margaret still has a box of unsold copies)
- Use of orange cones and balloons to mark the boundaries of the street fair since the two blocks will not be closed to traffic (Rob offered to lend some cones)

In conversation, it was pointed out that we needed to print additional copies of the Boulevard Park flyer, and that this would give us the opportunity to redesign it, possibly inserting space for advertising from sponsors for the printing of the brochure.

### **Grady’s and ParkBeat**

The discussion of the BP flyer prompted comments about our printer, Grady’s Copy Shop, which is supposed to be closing in the near future. The BPNA officers already have been looking for other possible printers but we don’t know yet when Grady’s will cease operation. We agreed that we would stay with them as long as we can.

### **Spaghetti Dinner Update**

Sally reported that the invitations had been sent to the VIPs. In discussion, it was pointed out that the “problem oriented police” (“Pop Cops”) also liked to be invited to this event. We still need volunteers to help with the Spaghetti Dinner—more servers, more kitchen workers: as many as 21 additional people, approximately, are needed. Other details are under control, such as picking up and delivering the bread (Hal will pick it up and deliver it to Pat Cosentino’s house), picking up the ice (Dave Philipp and Jim Betsing are responsible for this task). Margaret and Rob offered to try to reach additional volunteers by phone. Traditionally some BP resident is acknowledged at the dinner for his or her service to the neighborhood. We also discussed this part of the event, together with the magician who has been hired for the evening. His performance is scheduled to begin about 5:45 and end before 8:00 p.m. He will be some distance from the tables at the start and then work the individual tables later on.

**(next page, please)**

### **By-Laws, Boundaries—Possible Revisions**

It had been suggested that two clauses of the new BPNA By-Laws in particular might need revision: the neighborhood's boundaries are not well defined (they also differ from those stated in the previous set of By Laws) and the voting rights could be clarified, specifically as they relate to the definition of a quorum and of a "majority." Other phrases also might benefit from review and rewording (questions were raised about several points of the third section of the document). We discussed what might be involved in "fine-tuning" the By Laws and also securing the membership's approval of any changes (for example, could a vote be conducted at the Holiday Dinner in December). Our main concern is that the document be clear to future Board officers who were not involved with the formulation of the new set of By Laws. However, this seemed to be too complex an issue to be resolved at a single Board meeting. We agreed to set the matter aside until the general BPNA meeting in January, when the section about voting rights could be clarified.

### **EIN (Employer Identification Number)**

Sally reported that BPNA, Inc. finally got its EIN, needed for income tax purposes. Like many other non-profits, we are classified as a 501(c) (4) organization. We still need to fill out and submit a 5-page form to the IRS. Dave offered to review the paperwork.

### **BPNA Banner**

The officers discussed ordering a new banner with the association's website address (URL) on it. Hal, who has been looking into this, suggested that we might one to have more than one banner for use when more than one BPNA-supported event is scheduled at the same time. We already had agreed to spend approximately \$200. Yet to be decided were details such as the size of the banner (4 by 8 feet?) and the logo used.

### **Preservation**

Margaret was unable to attend the "Raised Streets/Hollow Sidewalks" presentation sponsored by the Preservation Commission on August 5. Her other recent preservation topic, alley development, already was addressed in a memo and at our Board meeting.

### **Miscellaneous: *ParkBeat* and Website**

Two residents had made some suggestions about possible announcements for publication in *ParkBeat*: we agreed that both topics were better suited to the BPNA website. Rob commented that the website seemed to be getting more "hits" recently. He also suggested that we might want to set up a "Facebook" page for BPNA, as it has a wide audience.

### **September Meeting Location and Agenda Item**

Dave Philipp will host the next meeting on September 10. In addition to the By Laws, a critical agenda item will be the nomination of Board members in 2010. It was pointed out that the Spaghetti Dinner could be a good venue for Board recruitment.

### **New Executive Board**

We discussed the procedures for forming a nominating committee in preparation for the election of new Board members in January 2010.

*The August 13 meeting was then adjourned*