Minutes of Meeting May 4, 2022, by zoom

Attending, Carol Blair, Jim O'Donnell, Steve Jerome, Nick Bernstein- Jon Santiago's rep., Teo Georgiev , Arnesse Brown, Bob Barney, Daniel Murphy- Boston Sun, Karen Mauney Brodek, Michelle Laboy, Alyssa Faria, Sara Mitchell

Minutes from April 6: Motion to accept the minutes (prepared by Kelsey), Sara Mitchell, Seconded by Jim O'Donnell, Passed Unanimously

Treasurer's report:
Friends of Chester Park-1,372, Chester Square Neighbors 2,416, Pay Pal 439, Total $4,227
Motion to accept the report Karen M, Seconded by Sara M, Passed unanimously
Karen asked about fundraising plans for this year and mentioned that there is funding for events: Olmsteadnow.org/grant in honor of Olmstead's 100th? anniversary.

Jazz Square (Bob Barney, President, Claremont NA)
Bob was looking for support to the naming of Columbus Ave and Mass Ave as "Jazz Square", to recognize the rich Jazz history of the area. Jazz establishments include the High hat, Wally's (slated to open again in the fall?), and many others. Side note: nearby, both New England Conservatory and Berklee have strong jazz departments. Celebrations could include banners, a statue, and plaques in the area and even have a day named for Jazz Square. But first there is the request to the City to designate it "Jazz Square".
Motion: Chester Square Neighbors will write a letter of support for "Jazz Square" and we applaud Bob Barney and Claremont NA's efforts to that end.
Moved Karen M., Seconded by Michelle Laboy, Motion Passed unanimously

Tree replacement Plan- Michelle Laboy reported starting the conversation with the tree warden again, about the trees missing, in the park. He made a commitment for TWO trees even though we have lost three. He also said that the neighbors/ association would need to water the trees because the tree contractors do not water the anymore. Michelle encouraged all to dial in for 311 noting the needed replacements in the park or wherever, but to keep at it. Also, there was a suggestion to continue to talk with the tree warden and ask for 5 trees, thereby maybe getting 3.

Bob Barney also mentioned there is a boutique **marijuana dispensary** application for 565 Columbus Ave, next to Render. This would be the 4th application for the South End (only one, on Albany, is open)

Mass Ave Coalition, with representatives from adjacent neighborhood associations, is preparing to incorporate and is asking for $200 from each neighborhood association as seed money for the project. This was discussed and included in the budget.

Teo Georgiev shared a **budget** for the year (onscreen) and will provide the figures before we publish)
Motion: to accept the 2022 budget, including seed money for the Mass Ave Coalition. (Moved Sara Mitchell, Seconded Jim O'Donnell, requiring cars to be rerouted just for that afternoon.
Motion Passed unanimously

June 19, (Father's Day) – 1 pm – Alison Barnett and Steve Jerome will narrate a **historical walk** along Mass Ave. (rain date Monday, June 20).

Sept 18: 1-4PM Fall Festival Mass Ave Coalition, 4 neighborhood associations representing Huntington Ave to Melnea Cass Blvd will host our festival in Chester Park. This aims to be very intergenerational, and interactive. Click here for more information.

Please fill our festival survey Here so we can compile your ideas,
Many activities are planned. Michelle suggested we open Mass Ave to pedestrians that Sunday from 1-4 pm, rerouting the traffic as needed – to enjoy one park, as Chester Park was designed to be.
Motion: To pursue the possibility to open Mass Ave to pedestrians for our Fall Festival
Moved Sara M, Seconded Alyssa Faria, Motion Passed unanimously

Updates
SE Landmarks District Commission - Phase I restoration plans for 558 Mass Ave (League of Women for Community Service) approved
Zoning Board of Appeal - Ebenezer deferred to May 10
Zoning Board of Appeal - Alexandra deferred to July 12
chestersquareneighbors.org – Alyssa is updating our website and asks for photos. Email to **Info@chestersquareneighbors.org**

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Mitchell