

CNA Annual Meeting

January 28, 2020, LBJ Common Room

Welcome – Cathie Zusy

Treasurer's report – Julia Halprin
Roughly \$100 in the CNA bank account

St Augustine's update - Gabe Cira

We have received another \$50K matching grant from the Cambridge Historical Commission and are applying for a \$150K grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Roof work is complete, and the CNA will support the restoration project throughout 2020. The church has petitioned for Landmark status with the city.

Miscellaneous announcements

Daniel Wolf, a Neighborhood Planner in the Community Development Department (CDD), said that the City will be looking for uses of the lot MIT gave the City at Brookline and Watson Streets. Nothing will probably happen there, however, until next year.

Cathie is trying to find out the status of the Cottage Street sewer construction, which has been disruptive for that neighborhood. [Update: CZ was told that work would continue through the fall.]

Berries Vapes and E-Juices Variety Flavors, a tobacco/vaping store, to open next to the Dunkin Donuts at 808 Memorial Drive. [Update: Because neighbors at 808 Memorial Drive let it be known that they DID NOT want the store there, it won't happen.]

Public meeting to be held on the 2020 Census, February 18, 6 pm, Central Square Library.

Cathie Zusy is stepping down as CNA President.

Election of new CNA Board members

Four of the Board members, Brian Aull, Rebecca Bowie, Gabe Cira, and Carolyn Shipley, have completed their two-year terms and are running for re-election. Three new candidates are also running for the four open seats on the Board: Brittany Butler, Abbie Cohen, and Luke Mitchell.

Elected to the Board were Rebecca Bowie, Brittany Butler, Gabe Cira, and Luke Mitchell. They will serve along with current Board members Julia Halprin, Rachel Han, and Cathie Zusy.

Thanks to Brian Aull and Carolyn Shipley for their service.

Central Square Roundtable

Speakers:

Michael Monestime, Central Square Business Association

Wendell Joseph, Neighborhood Planner, CDD

Patrick Barrett, PW Realty

Bill Deignan, Transportation Program Manager, CDD

Jerry Friedman, Supervising Engineer, Department of Public Works

Cliff Schorer, developer of 544 Mass. Ave.

Michael Monestime reported on the Central Square Business Improvement District (BID), formally formed in June 2019, and functioning since October.

He cited examples of BID initiatives: flea markets and food festivals, cleaning, flower planting, cultural district and graffiti alley, and the presence of ambassadors who help people in various ways, including cleaning, greeting and even providing a safe escort.

Web site: <https://centralsq.org>

Twitter: @CentralSqBID Facebook: @CentralSquareBID

Wendell Joseph represents the City on the Central Square Advisory Committee, which consists of a variety of stakeholders that give feedback on development in the Central Square Overlay District. Next meeting will be February 19. For more details and meeting schedule:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/zoninganddevelopment/advcomms/centraladvcomm>

See map showing new development happening at the Central Sq. below.

Bill Deignan and Jerry Friedman talked about the River Street Reconstruction project. The design is expected to be completed in 2020 with work starting in 2021. Plans include creating a dedicated bus lane along much of River St with automotive traffic using one lane, sidewalk improvement, lighting, trees, and the renovation of Carl Barron Plaza. Their presentation slides can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/~/.media/Files/CDD/Transportation/Projects/riverstreet/20200129/cnariverstupdate12820.pdf>

Cliff Schorer gave a brief presentation of the plan to build micro-studio apartments in the building at 544 Mass. Ave, above Teddy Shoes. More details here:

<https://cambridge.wickedlocal.com/news/20200114/central-square-developer-looks-to-build-29-micro-studios-in-cambridge>.

Brian Aull, Clerk