



**Rose Kennedy Greenway Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, March 30, 2021 – 5:00 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

This meeting was available by Zoom conferencing due to suspension of the provision of the Open Meeting Law requiring an in-person quorum by an order signed by Governor Charles Baker on March 12, 2020 due to COVID-19.

**Board Members Present:** Alli Achtmeyer, Mark Boyle, Matt Conti, Conor Finley, Robertstone Goodridge, Rosalind Gorin, Carmine Guarino, Kirsten Hoffman, Doug Husid, Deniz Johnson, Karen Johnson, Susanne Lavoie, Rebecca Lee, Tom O'Brien, Linda See, John Shea, Brad Snyder, Dave Wilkinson

**Board Members Not Present:** Kim Sherman Stamler

**Conservancy Staff Present:** Talia Aronson, Alan Auger, Darrah Cole, Jesse Brackenbury, Keelin Caldwell, Tracey Cooke, Lucas Cowan, David Dalena, Connor Foley, Tori Hiney, Olivia Horte, Rachel Lake, Rebecca McKevez, Sheila Novak, Eileen Ong, Alex Rogers Pittman, Anthony Ruggiero, Bob Stigberg, Soniya Tejwani, PhuongDuy Tran, Katie Wright

**Invited Guests Present:** Gwen Cochran Hadden, Chloe Kanas, Dave Kelleher, Peter Kochansky, Young Park, Lisa Savereid

**Members of the Public Present:** Patrick Brophy, Kathryn Burton, Joanne Hayes-Rines, Larry Moulter, Jake Sullivan. Other Zoom participants: Ava, Lily, Mike, Ryan, Tom

**Open Session**

Greenway Board Chair Doug Husid called the meeting to order in Open Session with a quorum present via Zoom at 5:04pm.

1. Husid called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors. **Upon a motion made by John Shea and seconded by Diane Johnson, the minutes were unanimously approved.**
2. Director of Finance and Administration Tracey Cooke introduced Dave Kelleher of AAFCPAs, the Conservancy's financial auditors. Kelleher reported that the financial audit

has a clean report. He presented the required communications, financial statement highlights, future committed funding, and related party transactions. Notable financial variances from previous years include Payroll Protection Plan funding and a sharp, pandemic-driven decrease in earned income revenue. **Upon a motion made by Rebecca Lee and seconded by Deniz Johnson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Audited Financial Statements.**

3. Husid provided an overview of the selection and hiring process for the Conservancy's new Executive Director and identified the two finalists for the position as Chris Cook, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space at the City of Boston, and Rebecca Davis, Deputy Director at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Husid noted that the Conservancy intends to increase DEI among its senior management positions holistically, as multiple senior positions are to be filled in the near future. Around half of the applicants were women and 30% were people of color. Members of the Search Committee weighed in on each of the candidates' background, vision, and ability to sustain relationships, growth, and revenue. Husid opened up the floor for discussion. Several Board members noted their past experiences with Cook and highlighted his skills and achievements. Board members opined that both candidates have a proven track record of inclusiveness and a commitment to DEI. Multiple Board members shared their opinion that experience connecting Boston's many different neighborhoods was vitally important, and the consensus was that Cook has especially strong experience in this regard. Board members discussed the lack of racial/ethnic diversity of the finalists, but noted they are both impressive in different ways. Brad Snyder called for a motion to vote by acclamation to select Chris Cook as Executive Director. **Upon a motion made by Kirsten Hoffman and seconded by Doug Husid, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Chris Cook as Executive Director.** Husid extended his thanks and best wishes to Rebecca Davis. Husid called for a motion by roll call to enter into Executive Session to decide the terms of the offer for the Executive Director position. **Upon a unanimous roll call, the Board voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing those personnel matters.**
4. The Board met in Executive Session.
5. Board Vice Chair John Shea introduced Bob Stigberg, Director of Maintenance and Capital, who proposed a vote on the procurements for the Parcel 2 and Chin Park Lighting projects. The staff is recommending the approval of a construction contract for up to \$724K (\$624K+\$100K contingency) for lighting improvements in Chin Park. Bids have not yet been received due to an extension in the deadline. The staff is also recommending the approval of up to \$987K (\$887K bid amount + \$100K contingency) for the procurement of materials and labor from NELM Corp. for the construction of Parcel 2. There are not sufficient funds available currently, but conversations are underway with BPDA, MassDOT, and BID to address; a construction contract will not be executed until funding is sufficient. **Upon a motion made by Rosalind Gorin and seconded by Brad Snyder, the motion to authorize the two procurements was unanimously approved.**
6. Nominating Committee Chair Brad Snyder provided an update on Board nominations. Snyder announced Yvonne Garcia, Chief of Staff to the CEO at State Street, as the nominee for the governor-appointed position on the Board. Husid called for a vote to nominate Yvonne Garcia to the Board, effective immediately. **Upon a motion made by**

**Karen Johnson and seconded by Tom O'Brien, the motion to nominate Yvonne Garcia was unanimously approved.**

7. Brackenbury gave an update on the 2021 budget. He reviewed the implications of PPP funding and overviewed federal, earned, BID, and philanthropic incomes. The Finance, Audit, and Risk Management Committee is dialing back reserve spending and is focused on key personnel restorations and hires.
8. Director of Development Alex Rogers Pittman provided a fundraising update on year-to-date revenues, Gala sponsors and Host Committee, celebration boxes, and ways the Board can help reach the Gala's fundraising goal.
9. Brackenbury provided the Board with two updates: the Board Responsibilities document has been revised to remove the specific give-get guidance amount of \$5k and the Annual Report is to be published tomorrow.
10. Husid briefly exited the meeting, and upon his return, updated the board that Chris Cook had accepted the offer for the position of Executive Director.
11. Husid introduced Tom O'Brien, who announced that Mark Boyle is retiring from his post at MassDOT in April. Tom reviewed the history and breadth of Boyle's work with the Conservancy and across the Commonwealth, and the Board joined him in noting his key achievements and accomplishments. Boyle thanked O'Brien and the Board for their kind words and wishes.
12. Husid bid farewell to departing Executive Director Jesse Brackebury and noted that there will be an in-person farewell in April. Husid highlighted Brackenbury's unique combination of skills, thanking him personally and on behalf of the Board. Board members contributed to his farewell, extending their thanks and praising his work with the Conservancy.
13. There were no questions from members of the public.

**The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board Meeting was adjourned, upon a motion made by John Shea and seconded by Rosalind Gorin, and a unanimous vote in favor was held 8:01pm.**