



**Rose Kennedy Greenway Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, March 24, 2020 – 5:30 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, Rosalind Gorin, Carmine Guarino, Doug Husid, Deniz Johnson, Karen Johnson, Jim Kalustian, Susanne Lavoie, Rebecca Lee, Tom O'Brien, Bud Ris, Linda See, John Shea, Kim Sherman Stamler, Brad Snyder, David Wilkinson.

**Board Members Not Present:** Robertstone Goodridge

**Conservancy Staff Present:** Jesse Brackenbury, Tracey Cooke, Alex Rogers Pittman, Robert Stigberg, Lucas Cowan, Keelin Caldwell, Cheryl Sullivan, Rachel Lake, Alan Auger, David Dalena, Sheila Novak, Eileen Ong, Ezra Juskewitch

**Invited Guests Present:** Jeannie Gorlovsky-Schepp, AAFCPA

**Open Session**

Greenway Board Chair Doug Husid called the meeting to order in Open Session with a quorum present via Zoom at 5:30pm, noting the unusual circumstances which necessitated this online meeting.

1. Mr. Husid called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2019 meeting of the Board of Directors. **Upon a motion made by Mark Boyle and seconded by Karen Johnson, the minutes were unanimously approved.**
2. Mr. Husid introduced Kirsten Hoffman as the nominee for the position on the Board representing the North End/Waterfront Residents Association. **Upon a**

**motion made by Bud Ris and seconded by Deniz Johnson, the motion to nominate Kirsten Hoffman was unanimously approved**

3. Mr. Husid introduced a proposal to create a Nominating Committee to identify future board members. Jesse Brackenbury, Executive Director, commented upon the timeliness of this committee, noting the pending departures of important members of the board and Kathryn Burton's recent early departure from the board to join the Walsh administration. Inaugural members of this committee are proposed to be Robertstone Goodridge, Doug Husid, Rebecca Lee, Brad Snyder, and John Shea. Members of the board discussed their appreciation for the strength and diversity of the current board. Mr. Ris noted that while the responsibility of identifying new board members lies with all members of the current board, the nominating committee will be the engine that drives that process. **Upon a motion made by Mr. Ris and seconded by Karen Johnson, the motion to approve the Nominating Committee Charter in the form generally consistent with the draft presented was unanimously approved.**
  
4. Director of Finance and Administration, Tracey Cooke, introduced Jeanie Gorlovsky-Schepp from AAF to present the Audited Financial Statements. Ms. Gorlovsky-Schepp discussed the Conservancy's clean audit and the clean management letter. The Conservancy adopted a number of new accounting standards this year related to revenue and restricted cash. Ms. Gorlovsky-Schepp gave an overview of financial statement highlights, noting that reserves are strong, earned income continues to grow, and overhead is low. Board members asked questions about investment accounts and the state of reserves. **Upon a motion made by Brad Snyder and seconded by Mr. Ris, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Audited Financial Statements.**
  
5. Mr. Husid introduced Mr. Brackenbury to discuss the implications of Covid-19 on The Greenway. Mr. Brackenbury noted that March is a typically quiet time on The Greenway and thus, the visitor experience has been substantially unchanged, though PlayCubes have been roped off and removable furniture has been removed from the park. Staff have been working to cancel March and April events. There is great uncertainty around the financial situation. The recently approved 2020 budget expected \$6.3 million in revenue and expenses, but earned revenue will be severely affected and contributions including Gala and Glow in the Park are challenged by the market plunge, economic situation and general uncertainty. Mr. Brackenbury described three scenarios and immediate efforts to cut costs, such as cutting planned Public Art projects, reducing supplemental services, and

eliminating the light pole banners. An additional meeting of the FARMC committee was added in April. Board members acknowledged the significant uncertainty of the current moment and confirmed Mr. Brackenbury's stated priority to protect staff. Members discussed the merits and timing of utilizing reserves, and discussed the possibility and timing of accessing reserves. **Upon a motion made by Karen Johnson and seconded by Mr. Ris, the Board unanimously voted to authorize budget reductions.**

6. Mr. Husid introduced Director of Development Alex Rogers Pittman. Ms. Pittman announced a number of recent gifts that had had the Conservancy on track to reach its projected revenue figures. Plans for the 2020 Gala and Glow in the Park have been put on hold. The Development Committee will meet regularly to monitor the current situation. Ms. Pittman acknowledged that it is a difficult time to ask for financial support. She and staff will continue to contact sponsors and other supporters. Board members expressed hope that The Greenway can be a place for celebration in the future.
7. Mr. Husid introduced Director of Programs and Planning Keelin Caldwell. Ms. Caldwell provided an overview of 2019 activities on The Greenway. It was an exciting year, with one hundred free fitness classes, youth adventure days, festivals, goat yoga, and the concert for one. Volunteers did over 2,000 hours of service. The Earned Income program expanded with the addition of City Winery. The Greenway celebrated its ten year anniversary with a number of events, most notably a dance performance at the Rings fountain. 2020 will be different. All April events have been canceled. The Carousel opening has been delayed. Events and festivals scheduled for May, June and July are uncertain. Earned Income programs will be severely affected. Food trucks are considered essential businesses, but there are few customers downtown. The Programs team has been in contact with food truck operators and other partners to monitor their situations. Board members discussed the remarkable recent momentum of the Programs team, and expressed hope that exciting programming will continue soon.
8. Director and Curator of Public Art Lucas Cowan provided an update on Public Art activities. Several anticipated projects will regretfully not be moving forward this year. The current mural, painted by Stefan Thelan, will remain for another year. Work by Furen Dai, a flashing neon sign, has been installed. A large-scale work by Yinka Shonibare will be shipped from London and will be displayed near Pearl Street. Work by Catalina Delgado Trunk will be displayed on the light blades. A

light-based work created by Yu Wen Wu will be displayed in Chinatown in August 2020. A mural by Juan Travieso was installed in the fall.

**The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board Meeting was adjourned, upon a motion made by Mr. Ris and seconded by Ms. Achtmeyer, and a unanimous vote in favor was held at 7:41pm.**