



**Rose Kennedy Greenway Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 – 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, Matt Conti, Conor Finley, Yvonne Garcia, Robertstone Goodridge, Rosalind Gorin, Kirsten Hoffman, Doug Husid, Deniz Johnson, Karen Johnson, Rebecca Lee, Linda See, John Shea, Kim Sherman Stamler, Brad Snyder, Dave Wilkinson

**Board Members Not Present:** Kate Fichter

**Conservancy Staff Present:** Keelin Caldwell, Alan Auger, Colin Keane, Chris Cook, Audrey Lopez, Abigale Parker, Lanie Kropp, Alex Rogers Pittman, Robert Stigberg, Rachel Lake, Tracey Cooke, Eileen Ong

**Invited Guests Present:** Jenny Morse, Hilina Ajakaiye

**Members of the Public Present:** N/A

**Open Session**

Greenway Board Chair Doug Husid called the meeting to order in Open Session with a quorum present via Zoom at 5:35pm.

1. Husid called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors. **Upon a motion made by Karen Johnson and seconded by Matt Conti, the minutes were unanimously approved.**
2. Husid reflected on the incredibly challenging year this has been and extended his thanks to Chris Cook, the Conservancy staff, and the entire Board for persevering through a very challenging year. Husid said farewell to Dave Wilkinson and thanked him for his service as one of the two Business Improvement District (BID) appointees. Wilkinson extended his thanks to the full Conservancy staff and fellow Board Members and expressed that he was honored to serve on the Board. On behalf of the Conservancy staff and the Board,

Cook presented Dave with a picture of the Greenway to thank him for his service, particularly in his contributions to the BID process.

- 3. Brad Snyder made a motion “that in accordance with Section 7 of the Funding Services Agreement, dated November 6, 2018 by and between the “BID” (as defined therein) and the “Conservancy” (as defined therein) (the “Agreement”) the BID has designated in its sole discretion (and confirmed said decision in writing to the Conservancy), that Jenny Morse shall be one of its two (2) “Bid Corp Appointees” (as defined in the Agreement). In accordance with Section 7.3 of the Agreement, the Bid Corp Appointee shall have all of the duties and responsibilities of the Conservancy’s Board of Directors and shall be subject to all policies adopted by the Board of Directors from time to time. Therefore, the Nominating Committee of the Conservancy hereby makes a motion to the full Board of Directors to confirm Jenny Morse as the Bid Corp Appointee to the Conservancy Board of Directors, and said appointment shall be effective immediately for a first-term beginning immediately and concluding on 12/31/22” The motion was seconded by Matt Conti and the vote passed unanimously.**
4. Snyder gave an introduction to Hilina Ajakaiye as a candidate for a Board Member. He described her background, and Husid confirmed that everyone who has met her is incredibly impressed and excited to have her join the board. **Brad Snyder made a motion on behalf of the Nominating Committee to confirm Hilina Ajakaiye. Seconded by Matt Conti. The vote passed unanimously.**
5. Jenny Morse and Hilina Ajakaiye joined the meeting at 5:52
6. Hilina introduced herself to the Board and thanked Chris Cook, Brad, and the Board Members she has met so far. She expressed her excitement to serve. Jenny Morse also introduced herself and shared her excitement about serving on the Board, and emphasized her interest in keeping public spaces vibrant.
- 7. Karen Johnson moved to renominate Ros, Deniz, Carmine, Brad, John for another term. The motion was seconded by Matt Conti and the vote was passed unanimously.**
- 8. Brad moved to reelect the current slate of officers to their respective positions for the duration of their current terms. The motion was seconded by Matt Conti and unanimously approved.**
- 9. Bard Snyder moved to appoint Stephen Hugel as advisor of the investment committee provided his firm does not bid on the work of the investment RFP and he follow the same ethics standards as board members. Seconded by Matt and seconded by Karen.**
10. Deniz Johnson joined the meeting at 6:01.
11. Conti expressed his support of Stephen Hugel as the nominee for the position of Advisor for the Investment Committee, sharing that he comes highly recommended and emphasizing how helpful advisors of the Investment Committee have been in the past. K. Johnson agreed and highlighted the extensive RFP process as an area where Hugel will be particularly helpful. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, expressed intention to formalize the process of nominating people to advisory roles. **The vote to approve**

**Stephen Hugel for the position of Advisor passed unanimously with the exception of Linda See, who abstained from the vote.**

12. Eileen Ong joined the meeting at 6:08
13. Cook introduced Abby Parker, the Conservancy's new Director of Horticulture and thanked Bob Stigberg for taking over the work of this position until they were able to hire the right person. Parker stated that she is honored to inherit the Greenway landscape and shared her academic and professional background, as well as her aspirations and vision for the Greenway to be a story of success in connecting with the scientific and local communities. She gave an update on the current tree management project in collaboration with Barlett Tree Experts.
14. John Shea joined the meeting at 6:18.
15. Kim Sherman Stamler and Rebecca Lee left the meeting at 6:20
16. Cook introduced Curator and Director of Public Art, Audrey Lopez, and commended Lopez and Parker on their commitments to the Conservancy's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals.
17. Lopez introduced herself and described her approach to work at the intersection of public art and racial, cultural, and spatial justice. She shared Public Art Department updates, including the creation of an internal equity review and applications to grant opportunities, as well as a \$400,000 grant from the Barr Foundation already received in December. She described two upcoming projects in Chinatown featuring artists Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong and Yu-Wen Wu, and shared that the department is also in conversation with many new artists including Gohar Dashi, whose previous work was cut short by the pandemic. Lopez confirmed that she will present her official plan for public art at the Board meeting in March, 2022.
18. 15084687201 joined the meeting at 6:21.
19. Susanne Lavoie joined the meeting at 6:30.
20. **The vote passed unanimously. The operating budget and capital budget are adopted.**
21. At 6:47 Roberstone Goodrige and Colin Keane left the meeting.
22. Bob Stigberg shared that the Carousel is showing a lot of signs of wear and tear. He said that they settled on ADK to do these repairs, believing them to be able to do the repairs for the best balance of cost and time. He emphasized that they feel that this is a really special thing on the greenway that is starting to look worn and that it needs to receive some TLC. He estimated \$180,000 to do this work. Chris Cook clarified that Adirondack Studios is the group Bob is referring to. Doug clarified that these funds come from reserves for the carousel reserve and that they will need to look forward to ways to replenish those reserves. Tracey clarified that these reserves don't cover the entire cost and that \$45,000 would come from the general reserves. Brad asked if there are any other parts of the carousel that would need repair and Bob responded not as far as he is

aware. He said there has been a lot of research into its function and that since maintenance has taken the care of the carousel and he feels good about saying it's in very good shape right now. Brad also asked what the revenue from the carousel is and Tracey shared that \$300,000 is budgeted for in 2022. Karen asked how long the carousel will be offline and is it a possibility to extend the carousel season. Keelin shared that this discussion was just started internally and that there is a temperature threshold for running the carousel and that snow and ice are concerns. She highlighted that it's a huge draw because it's outdoors and that it's doing better than it was pre pandemic. Bob confirmed that the carousel would open about a month later in order to get the repairs done. **Karen made a motion to approve the work on the carousel and Conor seconded, the vote passed unanimously.**

23. Doug reminded everyone how successful Block by Block has been. Bob agreed and shared the background of the Block by Block program including monthly reports and the annual report created by Block by Block themselves with information they collect during their time in the park. He highlights that they are out on the park every day including during the pandemic and shared the diverse types of work that they do that are essential for the Greenway. He said that they do a great job training their people. He shared quality of life stats from the year and where in the park they've had to do the most clean up. Bob expressed interest in using the data they provided to track trends. He shared that there has been lots of staff turnover but that has somewhat leveled out recently, and they have partnerships with organizations that provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities or who have criminal histories and would not be eligible for other employment (60% of their employees fall under these categories). He highlighted the challenges they have faced regarding supply chain issues and getting equipment, and that they go out of their way to help the people who spend time on the Greenway.
24. Bob gave updates that Parcel 2/North Meadow and Chin Park, sharing that progress has been made past significant obstacles in Parcel 2 and that design for Chin Park lighting is underway and hopefully the project will start in the next couple weeks.
25. Alex Rogers Pittman gave updates on fundraising. She shared that 2021 may be the second highest fundraising year since the opening of the Greenway and that the success is due to the capital fundraising for the Chin Park lighting project. She expressed frustration that we desperately need funding for salaries and general operating expenses but that so much of our philanthropy income cannot be used for these because it is restricted, but pride in investing in the Chin Park program. She shared the 2021 Goals and YTD actual values, indicating portions of the operating goals and YTD that are designated for future use. She shared that yesterday it was confirmed that the Yawkey Foundation awarded \$100,000 for lighting in Mary SooHoo Park. She shared the complete list of committed funders for Chin Park Lighting and highlighted those that are new since the last board meeting. She shared hopes that some of these occasionally allow for funds to go towards operating costs. She shared forecasts for finishing 2021 and the 2022 budget, highlighting higher expenses for the gala that should result in increased gross as well. She shared that we are looking at very modest growth in individual giving this year and that some of that may have moved over into the gala bucket. She shared that estimates for individual giving for 2022 are likely overly optimistic and may be adjusted. She explained the increase in corporate giving is due to conversation the team has had with

some of those organizations, and the decrease in Foundation and Gov't grants is due to multiyear grants not being repeated. She also highlighted that there has been more interest in bench and swing dedication this year than in the past.

26. Alex gave a summary of the gala which is in person this year after being remote last year. She shared that the two co chairs are bringing in lots of support and that Alli Achtmeyer is helping cultivate the event. She gave an overview of the new structure of the event and highlighted that Mayor Wu is likely to attend. She shared the fundraising goal of \$675,000 and explained the costs of tickets and sponsorships. She explained that for the first time there is an option to bundle gala and GLOW tickets. She asked for contact information for potential sponsors to be sent to her soon as we are getting the mailing list together this month. She shared the news that Conor Finley has agreed to co-chair GLOW and that there is a goal of fundraising \$64,000 and explained the structure of the event.
27. John Shea reminded that last year at this meeting they asked for pledges for the next year and they want to do the same thing this year, and asked for board members to make a pledge for 2022 giving and thanked the board members for their consideration.
28. Chris stated that they are looking forward to coming together in March and highlighted the BID renewal and goals around DEI and creating tangible goals for organization and board itself.
29. There were no members of the public present for questions.

**The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board Meeting was adjourned, upon a motion made by Matt Conti and seconded by Brad Snyder, and a unanimous vote in favor was held at 7:38pm.**