At CDC Annual Meeting, Gratitude, Awards, and Health Partnership

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

A pproximately 145 people attended the virtual Fenway Community Development Corporation Annual Meeting on April 7.

It began with a welcome from Executive Director Leah Camhi and a moment of silence for those lost to COVID. She then voiced an appreciation to the indigenous peoples whose land European settlers stole. While Camhi acknowledged that an apology cannot make up for their loss, a moment of reflection on our part can validate the event’s historical significance.

Mat Thal, a founding member of the CDC, voiced an appreciation for the dedicated CDC staff. He mentioned recent affordable housing projects, such as New castle Sararan on Columbus Avenue, where the CDC rehabbed 97 units, and Burbank Terrace on Burbank Street, which will start construction on 27 units this summer.

The Healthy Neighborhood Initiative used the input of Fenway and Audubon Circle residents to identify services and support that residents needed in the wake of the COVID pandemic. The purpose is to formulate programs over the next two years that can improve the quality of life for neighborhood residents.

Kris Anderson, director of the CDC, spoke about District 8, acknowledged the important role that the CDC plays in ensuring affordable housing, and Mayor Wu also paid a brief visit, emphasizing affordable housing as an essential part of our community.

Robert Kordenbrock, executive director of the Fenway Community Center, spoke about Fenway Caros, the mutual aid project that provides food to food insecure residents. He reported that the group has provided 10,000 bags of fresh produce every two weeks and acknowledged the support of Samuels & Associates, Northeastern University, the Boston Resiliency Fund, Hamilton Company Foundation, Berkshire Bank, the Boston Red Sox, Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust, Berklee College of Music, and Residence Inn by Marriott.

In its early days, the CDC pursued a primary goal of creating and maintaining affordable housing, but it has since expanded its mission to do much more. Kris Anderson highlighted the CDC’s role in supporting the group’s involvement reviewing projects being developed in the community.

Bok, Anderson, and Fenway Cares (comprising the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Assn., the Fenway Alliance, Fenway Civic Association, the CDC, the Community Center, and Operation P.A.C.E.) all received awards in honor of their dedicated service.

Fenway Health also plays an important role in the neighborhood, and its CEO, Ellen LaPointe, delivered the meeting keynote. In addition to providing healthcare to 34,000 people, the group provided telehealth consultation for people outside of Massachusetts during the pandemic, and in 2020 committed to an anti-racist strategy. The health center plays a critical role in supporting the health of people in the LGBTQIA+ community and people living with HIV. LaPointe emphasized that, “We are all in this together” and recognized the severity of mental health issues in the neighborhood during the pandemic. LaPointe then announced a collaboration between the CDC and Fenway Health. The partnership, Fenway/Kenmore Community Collective, will receive partial funding from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. A community needs assessment helped determine three goals: increasing financial stability, ensuring access to food, and ensuring access to healthcare.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens. Learn more about the CDC at fenwaycdc.org.
**Let’s Get Real About Affordable, Accessible Childcare**

Let us face it, some of us aren’t that great with two or three young children at home all day. Our society began to appreciate the needs of parents, of children, and of the dedicated people who provide care for them. People thought about making childcare accessible and affordable, and there was much public discussion about the hard jobs of our childcare providers. Increments were made, but the priorities of quality, accessible childcare no longer came at the top of our lists. Early childhood education, I’ve seen this trend repeat itself. Early childhood education gets a flurry of interest, and the attention drops away. Never has greater Boston area seen many children in early childhood education—especially in low-income families. The resulting economic and emotional costs are due. Many live below the poverty level.

During the pandemic, funds were available to early childhood education programs, but that money was temporary, so programs couldn’t use it to fund permanent salary increases. Many programs closed due to the inability to attract qualified staff and meet expenses.

Looking Into Investors Behind Fenway Corners Proposal

**BY MAT THALL**

After a presentation by WS Development of the 5-plus-acre project called Fenway Corners, a long-time community leader recently said in an email: “I should know this, but who is WS Development?”

I then realized that we should all know who’s behind the mega-developments planned for the Fenway. I don’t pay close attention to the Article 80 processes, so I really don’t know if this important question is often asked. I decided to see what I could find out about WS Development from its website.

WS Development is a huge real estate development, investment, leasing, and construction company. It has several major developments in metro Boston, including a 76 million-square-foot mixed-use project in the Seaport; the outdoor shopping center Legacy Place in Dedham, and major downtown towers.

WS has developed 106 properties comprising over 20 million sq ft. The company’s mission is “making the company one of the largest retail-led, mixed-use developers in the country. From its origins in suburban New England, our portfolio has grown nationally to include urban core, retail and high-end lifestyle centers, and mixed-use developments.”

There are no names in the Who We Are tab of the website. I did find in a web search for Yanai Tausig—who has led the development team for the past few years—told the company’s CEO, “Making the company one of the largest retail-led, mixed-use developers in the country. From its origins in suburban New England, our portfolio has grown nationally to include urban core, retail and high-end lifestyle centers, and mixed-use developments.”

“WS has developed 106 properties comprising over 20 million square feet within its development area.”

The last point is especially interesting. Most people know Steve Weiner is involved in the ownership of WS Development. But here is some interesting information I found online:

• Weiner Ventures is a real estate investment and development firm with a notable portfolio of large mixed-use properties in the Boston area.

• Weiner Ventures has partnered on a wide variety of projects developed, owned, and managed by real estate development firms S.R. Weiner & Associates and WS Development.

• Managing partner is Adam Weiner, the son of Stephen Weiner.

• Weiner Ventures’ investment and development portfolio includes mixed-use projects in the Fenway, including the Verlaf Hotel and the Pierce Boston residential and retail tower.

The Fenway News is published monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc., a community-owned corporation dedicated to community journalism. If you’d like to volunteer to write, edit, photograph, distribute, or support, please contact us.

The Fenway News, PO Box 3002, Boston, MA 02123 fenwaynews.org www.fenwaynews.org

**Guest Opinion**

by Karla Rideout

The beginning of this COVID pandemic, the need for early childhood care and education became very clear to us.

Parents lost jobs because there was no care for their children. First responders couldn’t get to work to help us in our emergencies. Parents didn’t know what to do with young children who were stuck at home for so long. People began to think seriously about what kinds of opportunities they wanted for their children, and how to provide them.

Let’s face it, some are n’t that great with two or three young children at home all day. Our society began to appreciate the needs of parents, of children, and of the dedicated people who provide care for them. People thought about making childcare accessible and affordable, and there was much public discussion about the hard jobs of our childcare providers. Increments were made, but the priorities of quality, accessible childcare no longer came at the top of our lists.

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Oasis Guest House Marks 40 Years of Welcoming Visitors

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

I t was 1982, at the end of the arson-for- hire period in the Fenway. The buildings on Edgery Road were mostly deserted. Few people lived there. That’s when Joe Haley decided to buy 20 and 22 Edgery Rd., former rooming houses, and turn them into a bed-and-breakfast. The buildings were empty and had been abandoned for several years, said Haley. “There were no windows, a tree was growing in a hole in the living room, and a family of skunks lived in the basement.”

At the time of his purchase, the Church Park apartment complex was under construction, its developers wanted to expand and take properties on Edgery Road by eminent domain. After neighborhood activists sued, the developers ultimately lost in federal court. Haley said that eminent domain powers were misused, as the developers were looking for profit, not public good.

Haley created 15 guest rooms in the two buildings, and in 1999, he and his partner Eric Tingdahl purchased two nearby buildings and added another 15 rooms. They included an apartment for themselves, an apartment for their manager, and a studio for their handyman. All their employees live in the Fenway, said Tingdahl.

On May 7, Haley and Tingdahl will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Oasis Guest House. “Forever glorious years,” said Haley. When asked where the name came from, Haley said that a cafe in Maine that he liked was called Oasis. Also, at the time he started a popular song was “Midnight at the Oasis.” The two host 15,000 people per year, from 79 different countries, and in 2018 USA Today named Oasis the Best Value in Boston. It received a Traveler’s Choice award from TripAdvisor in 2021.

The guest house offers nine types of rooms spread over the four brownstones. Most have queen-sized beds with private bath, TV, and WiFi. There are rear outdoor decks, parking is available, and a computer is available free for guests. The average in-season price is $229 for a room with queen-sized bed and private bath. An elaborate continental breakfast features hot and cold cereals, yogurt, hard-boiled eggs, juice, bread, and pastries. Guests can enjoy breakfast in the living room, rear deck, or in their room. Possibly the best feature of Oasis Guest House is its location just off Mass. Ave. and close to the MBTA, Symphony Hall, and Fenway Park. Parents often stay there when situating their children at Berklee and Northeastern. Haley and Tingdahl have also hosted Grammy Award winners from Berklee and musicians from the Boston Symphony. Both owners are active in the neighborhood. Tingdahl belonged to the board of the Fenway Community Development Corporation for 10 years, serving as treasurer, vice president, and president.

Grants Aim to Fund Inclusive New Programs in Olmsted Parks

BY ALISON PULTINAS

O lmsted Now represents the collaborative result of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s 2021 examination of issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the National Park Service’s Olmsted Bicentennial celebrations. Working with Dorchester’s Design Studio for Social Intervention, consultant Jen Mergel is leading the effort to develop a justice lens for re-envisioning the Olmsted parks. The effort includes a new oversight group, the Committee of Neighborhoods, monthly public dialogues, and the Olmsted Now Parks Equity and Spatial Justice Grant, a $200,000 program to support creative projects held in the parks or nearby outdoor spaces between July and October. The new committee will review the applications, due by May 27. The program aims to fund five grants at $20,000 each, five at $10,000 and ten at $5,000.

According to the website, “each grant is intended to explore how we can turn the idea of ‘parks equity’ into strategic action. To that end, we invite unsung and/or emerging creative projects and organizations, as well as well-known artistic voices, to animate green spaces. We are interested in both high-profile, high-traffic park spaces and underutilized neighborhood green spaces, such as greenhouses and/or farms.”

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill. Olmsted Now will host info sessions on the grant program over Zoom on May 9 (6-7:30pm) and May 17 (11-12:30pm). Visit olmstednow.org for more information.
The Fenway Community Center is now open six days a week. Visit https://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/ for more details. Masks and vaccines required.

- Wednesdays, 4:00pm: GUIDED MEDITATION.
- Thursdays, 1:00pm: TAI CHI.
- Fri, May 6, 6:30pm: FIRST FRIDAY FILM SERIES. Join the FCC for a screening of Buck and Preacher.
- Sat, May 28, 10:00am: SELF DEFENSE. Learn how to predict, identify, prevent, and avoid violence.

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Proposal Would Put Lab, Housing on Mission Hill Site

The Bulfinch Companies filed a project proposal in mid-April for a research and development lab and apartment building on a steep 1.3-acre site in Mission Hill.

The location encompasses three separate parcels: vacant land at 808 Huntington Ave.—site of the former Ed Burke’s Tavern, demolished in 2014, “where civilization ends and the wildlife begins;” a 1960s-era concrete building next door; and a large parking lot on Hillside Street [pictured] last used by New England Baptist Hospital. Decades-old maps suggest that the lot has never been built on, only paved for cars. Auto dealerships—Konner Chevrolet and in earlier decades, a Ford dealer—previously owned the Hillside lot and the Huntington parcel at 812-814, sold in 1967 to the American Red Cross for office space.

In 2021, the Boston Landmarks Commission approved demolition of the vacant office building.

According to the proponent, at three stories, both the residential building and the lab could move forward as of right (meaning without requiring special approvals). However, lab use would require a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Comments on the proposal are due May 19 to Ebony.Darosa@boston.gov, although no public meetings have yet been announced.

Bulfinch has already held seven meetings with representatives of Roxbury Tenants of Harvard and Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services; both organizations have representatives on the Impact Advisory Group appointed for the project by the BPDA.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Samuel's Offers Funding to Activity 'Programming Partners' at 401 Park's Lawn

401 Park has opened the application process in a search for new partners to develop programming for The Green, the area next to the Trillium beer garden and Time Out Market. Past programming has included music, art, and fitness activities. Samuel & Associates will mentor new and emerging talent as partners who receive a $2,500 stipend and participate in a communal leadership-building program. Samuel prefers to receive applications for the 2022 season by Sunday, May 1, but will accept them after that date on a rolling basis. The application is available at https://tinyurl.com/yaenmnk.

Motivated young seekers raced through Southwest Corridor Park near Albert Street on the Saturday before Easter. The Southwest Corridor Park Management Advisory Council, King’s Hill Church, and Mission Hill’s Alice Heyward Taylor Tenants Task Force jointly sponsored the hunt.

Betty Commerford Memorial Set for May 7

Family and friends have planned a hybrid memorial service for Mission Hill activist Betty Commerford on Sat., May 7, at 2pm. The event will take place in person at Wentworth and online on Zoom. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/elizabeth-betty-commerford-memorial-boston-tickets-305827477217.

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**Dancers and Voices Soar at Collective College Recitals**

Over the weekend of April 2-3, the Colleges of the Fenway (Wentworth Institute of Technology, Simmons University, and Emmanuel College) hosted three dance performances. The program featured 22 pieces, choreographing 30 dancers. The following weekend, on April 10, the Colleges presented a 45-minute jazz band performance. The event included two dance numbers, three jazz standards, and three vocalists who each sang a Broadway tune. Here, MassArt students Lauren Eppler and Lucas Gruner rehearsing Eppler’s choreography for the show.

**[PHOTO: JACK TAN]**

> **TURNER** page 1

One of the 1840 painting Slave Ship, owned by the MFA. The painting depicts confusion and terror as sick and dying slaves are tossed overboard. It likely reflects an actual 1781 atrocity aboard the slave ship Zong, whose crew murdered 132 slaves by throwing them overboard to collect insurance money for those “lost at sea.” The resulting outcry from the public galvanized abolitionism in Britain.

Turner exhibited Slave Ship at the Royal Academy in the spring of 1840 overlapping with the first World Anti-Slavery Convention, also in London. The art critic John Ruskin received the painting from his father and eventually sold it to John Taylor Johnston, the president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1874, Alice Sturgis Hooper, an avid Boston abolitionist, purchased the painting and lent it to the MFA. The painting depicts confusion and terror as sick and dying slaves are tossed overboard. It likely reflects an actual 1781 atrocity aboard the slave ship Zong, whose crew murdered 132 slaves by throwing them overboard to collect insurance money for those “lost at sea.” The resulting outcry from the public galvanized abolitionism in Britain.

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In 1842, Turner painted Snow Storm—Steam-Boat off a Harbour’s Mouth, Making Signals in Shallow Water, and Going by the Land. A steamboat battles a dizzying vortex of sea and snow. Turner, who claimed that he experienced the storm firsthand, said, according to MFA news, “I did not expect to escape, but I felt bound to record it if I did.” The MFA notes suggest that Turner’s account of first-person experience may be fictional.

**MFA: Philip Guston Opens**

Across 50 years, a key concern haunted Philip Guston’s stylistic transformations: the question of the painter’s place in the world. He painted deeply ambiguous works, defined as much by dark themes as by his joy in the “brutality of the world” as by his joy in the process of painting. On view through Sept. 11, this retrospective—the first in nearly two decades—features 73 paintings and 27 drawings, including both well-known and rarely seen works.

**BPL: Tracking Environmental Injustice Through Maps**

The Boston Public Library will host Teen Music Maker Showdown, a statewide competition. Through June 10, Massachusetts residents ages 13 to 18 can submit self-produced music tracks for evaluation by a panel of judges. Three winners will share more than $7,500 worth of prizes, including free studio time, songwriting commissions, and Visa gift cards. This year’s event includes expanded workshops to give young artists/producers feedback and guidance from a professional music producer and free access to music making equipment at branches around the BPL system. Visit www.bpl.org/teens/ musicmaker/ for more information.

> **LAST CALL**

**ENDS SUNDAY, MAY 8**

The Gardner Museum’s Being Muhuli: Portraits as Resistance showcases the photography on which South African artist ZaneleMuholi built a reputation along with works in media new to the artist—painting and sculpture. The show examines beauty, love, loss, and belonging, and grapples with identity politics and Black queer visibility. Mon, Wed, Fri, 11am-5pm; Thu, 11am-9pm; Fri-Sat, 10am-5pm; Timed tickets $20, $18 (seniors), $13 (students). Details at www.gardnermuseum.org/.

**Region’s Paean to Boston Hangs in Allston Gallery**

By Mary Ann Brogan

Fenway resident Patrick Maloney exhibits a timely art piece for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, entitled “The Emerald Necklace.” In the painting, playful colors and shapes denote the simplicity and raw beauty of the Emerald Necklace. It draws in the viewer and puts a smile on their face. The exhibit, entitled “Love That Dirty Water?” is housed in The Speedwell Gallery in Allston and is sponsored by the Cambridge Art Association. It’s meant to be an ode to the dirt and grit of our city. Thirty-three paintings, photographs and digital works are on exhibit. The Speedway is an historic building previously used as offices and stables during World War II and is now renovated for mixed-use community businesses.

A New Hampshire native, Maloney lives in the East Fens. He has a bachelor of fine arts in painting and drawing from the University of New Hampshire. He has held in the Boston area since 1975 and has a substantial and varied history as an artist. He worked as the visual resource curator at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts from 1999 to 2005, serving as slide and video librarian for film-history classes and co-chairing the annual staff art exhibit. He has exhibited his work in Boston and New York and in group shows in Europe.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A LOT HAPPENED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE, INCLUDING...

Some—though not all—commentators at a public hearing opposed naming the theater in the new Arts Academy building, which opens this fall, after former Mayor Marty Walsh. Opponents cited the incongruity of naming a key feature of a school that primarily serves students of color after a white politician. According to a Herald report, Walsh’s name appears on a “slate” of titles proposed for the school, led by a proposal to name the school itself after the late Elma Lewis, the Roxbury arts-education pioneer. The Herald says two more hearings will examine this and other questions before the School Committee takes a formal vote in mid-May. The pandemic delivered an unexpected silver lining for the Huntington Theatre Company. With the main stage shuttered, contractors didn’t have to alter their schedules to work around rehearsals and performances. As a result, the $55 million renovation will wrap up a year early, allowing the company to return to its home in the East Fens to open its 2022-23 season this September.

City Adds Boylston Lane Bikes in the West Fens

Restoring of Boylston Street in the West Fens, which began April 25, will add bike lanes on both sides of the street between Ipswich (at the CVS) and the intersection with Brookline Avenue and Park Drive. The lanes continue the building of a citywide protected bike network described in the Go Boston 2030 plan. Through May 5, curb reconstruction will take place 7am–4pm; striping takes place overnight, 8pm-5am.

CPA Hearing Includes Round of “Where’s That Bridge?”

On April 5, the City Council’s Community Preservation Act Committee approved a slate of projects to receive $27.2 million in funding in fiscal 2022. The full Council approved the slate on April 13. District 8 Councilor Kenzie Bok raised the issue of confusion over the location of the $650,000 restoration of the Evans Way footbridge in the Fens. Bok asked to have the project assigned correctly to the Fenway. The application, submitted by long-time Emerald Necklace advocates Elena Saporta and JoAnn Robinson, listed the project as located in Mission Hill. Thadine Brown, director of the Community Preservation Act program, said the applicants had explained that the bridge would primarily benefit Mission Hill residents. She promised to consult with the Parks Department for its opinion, but Bok called the mislocation a “rebranding” and expressed concern that Mission Hill ranks among the city neighborhoods with the lowest CPA funding.

Local Colleges Break Out Diplomas and Mortarboards

College graduations will take place in person this year, but most remain outside. Dates and locations for local schools include:

- April 30: Wentworth Institute of Technology, on campus.
- May 13: Northeastern University at Fenway Park. Hadii Ulukaya, founder and CEO of Chobani, will deliver the commencement address.
- May 14: Emmanuel College, on campus.
- May 19: Massachusetts College of Art and Design at Leader Bank Pavilion. Former actor Mayor Kim Janey will deliver the commencement address.

Three Guggenheim Fellows Have Fenway Connections

The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation has announced the winners of this year’s fellowships, one of the most sought-after honors in academia. Eleven winners come from Massachusetts, and several have Fenway connections. Composer Jonathan Bailey Holland is chair of composition, contemporary music, and core studies at Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music. His current projects include an opera commissioned by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project that focuses on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., during his time at Boston University. Other winners include Xin Zhang, professor of mechanical engineering at Boston University, and Jyoti Purl, head of the sociology department at Simmons University.

Wheelock Mounts a Winning ‘Wizard of Oz’

BY ALISON BARNET

That was a good play,” says a father of young children, as we leave the Wheelock Family Theatre. He agrees with the Wizard of Oz closed on May 1, the day after this issue of The Fenway News came out, offering neighbors scant opportunity to see it.

Wheelock, now in its 40th year, has presented The Wizard of Oz four times (in 1986, 1992, and 2012). Maybe there will be a fifth.

This season’s show was delayed almost two years because of COVID-19, and the lines were longer than I’ve ever seen at the Wheelock, now called Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University [WFT@BU]. In the program, Artistic Director Emily Raniro wrote that “as the pandemic unfolded, and we were all increasingly at home, the questions of ‘what makes a home’ and ‘how does one feel at home’ took on new meanings. The quest that occupies Dorothy’s dream became our very real, everyday experience.”

“Home,” is, of course, a recurring theme in The Wizard of Oz. A student once asked me what it does “There’s no place like home” mean to you?” by saying “Well, I think it’s on a different meaning in this time of homelessness and rising rents. What if there’s no home to go to? What would Dorothy done?” I’m always interested in the remarkable talent of the young people on Wheelock’s stage. Lily Park, who plays Dorothy, is a teenager with a surprisingly mature voice. She has taken theatre and dance courses in New York and Boston, including with Newton’s All That Jazz Dance Studio—great name! Scarecrow Maxwell Beck Seelig was first at Milton Academy who got excited about theatre at a preschool class play. He’s said to be a good at dialogue and can burp on cue. Older and taller, the lively Timm David Jiles, Jr., is a professional actor and singer and an assistant professor at the Berklee College of Music. And then there’s the dog Toto. Lisa Kate Joyce is listed as playing Toto, but she’s really Toto’s handler. A puppeteer, Joyce has been involved with WFT since she was 14. Experienced in “child whispering,” she “creates the physicality and sound of Toto.”

The audience found the songs and accompanying acts “If only I had a heart...a brain...the nerve” among the most entertaining. Little children loved it—the audience clapping wildly when Toto runs in with a heart, Scarecrow a brain, and Lion nerve.

Producing the show required a great number of people—costumes, sound engineers, on-stage musicians, costume coordinators, and electricians, to name a few. Administrative and artistic directors Raniro and Nick Vargas. Wheelock has already announced next year’s season: Matilda, the story of a little girl born into a family that doesn’t value intelligence, Fall 2022; Make Way for Ducklings, winter 2023; and Bud, Not Buddy—he’s named after a flower to be—spring 2023.

Alison Barnet lives in the South End.
Special Fenway Corners Zoning Advances

BY ALISON PULTINAS

There was a cordial tone to the Fenway Corners Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) on April 13. There were no consultants and no slide presentation, just Yanni Tsipis of WS Development, City Councilor Kenzie Bok, 11 CAC members, and time enough for three non-members to speak as well.

When Boston Planning and Development Agency project manager Eddie Carmody probed for unresolved issues, residents responded with a range of topics: biosafety regulations, mitigation, and questions about the limited amount of new housing.

The comment period on the latest submission from the WS team—extended to April 29—doesn’t match the deadline stated on the BPDA website for the two supposedly concurrent applications for Planned Development Area zoning.

Those applications essentially lock in height, massing and uses for the proposed eight buildings. Once the BPDA board approves a Planned Development Area, there’s no subsequent review unless a major change takes place. After an inquiry, Carmody stated in an email that the April 29 date applied to comments on both the Draft Project Impact Report and Planned Development Areas, “through this process will continue to be iterative and the project will be reviewed by the CAC for several more weeks (at least).”

Dolores Boogdanian was the first to say the neighborhood is being asked “to eat the elephant in one big bite.” Bok and Tim Horn agreed that a PDA master plan would have created a more predictable process that allows for reviews of each project phase. The Fenway Corners project didn’t technically qualify for that process; although covering more than five acres in total, the 13 separate parcels aren’t adjacent. Tsipis said WS would commit to returning to the CAC as the project evolves.

Julian Phillips pushed for more attention to the architecture, with a focus on the ground floor. He called for the street facili-
ty to be as creatively designed as the 47 brand store on Jersey Street. The future location for the facility still hasn’t been identified.

The two residential buildings, 100 and 110 Brookline Ave., fall under the Planned Development Area west plan with respective heights of 150 and 200 feet. Queried about the low percentage of housing in the overall plan, Tsipis argued that most project sites just weren’t good places for families to live and sleep. If the community wants more residential development, he suggested adding stories to the two buildings on Brookline Avenue and agreed to analyze wind and shadow impacts from any new height there.

The underlying question of the evening was where the thousands of new workers in these lab and office buildings will live and how they’ll get to work? Councilor Bok and the Fenway Community Development Corporation’s Richard Giordano both spoke about the need for job training in light of all the new bio-research lab space coming to the city.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Toward Zero Waste: Two Programs Help Shrink Your Climate Impact

BY LESLIE POND

New Drop-off Sites Make Composting A Lot Easier

The City of Boston has expanded Project Oscar, its test of home composting, to nine locations. The initial drop-off points, City Hall or East Boston, weren’t particularly convenient for our readers, but two of the new sites are. You can leave household food wastes at the Tobin Community Center in Mission Hill (1481 Tremont St., pictured) and the South End Branch Library (685 Tremont St.). Project Oscar accepts plant matter and uncoated paper, including fruit/vegetable scraps and peelings, pits and seeds, eggshells, coffee grounds, teabags, paper towels and plates, and compostable bags, among other items. It doesn’t accept dairy products, meats, fats—all attract rodents—or plastic bags. For a full list of what you can and can’t compost, tips on collecting and storing food waste at home, and more, visit www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar. What’s the climate connection? The Commonwealth estimates that Massachusetts generates enough food waste to fill 20 Fenway Parks every year—more than a quarter of all landfill waste generated in the state. And we know that rotting food in landfills gives off significant volumes of methane, a powerful driver of climate change. Composting harnesses natural microbial breakdown that avoids those emissions while turning wastes into soil.

Ditch Hazardous Waste, Old Electronics on May 21

O n Sat., May 21, Boston residents can safely dispose of hazardous waste, shed unwanted documents, get rid of textiles and clothing, and recycle electronics at the first of five City-sponsored hazardous waste drop-offs at the Department of Public Works, 400 Frontage Road, from 9am to 2pm. You’ll need to show proof of residency, such as a license, lease, or utility bill.

Examples of what you can hand over, at no charge, include: a long list of hazardous materials including anti-freeze, motor oil, tires, ammonia, paint thinner, dead batteries, art supplies, chlorine bleach, lighter fluid, oven cleaners, rat poison, insecticides and weed killers. Electronics, including computers, keyboards, mice, networking equipment, dead lightbulbs (especially fluorescents), audio and video equipment, old phones, including mobile phones. Not accepted: TVs, air conditioners, other large appliances (but the City will pick them up by appointment).

Textiles of all kinds, as long as they’re dry and don’t smell or have mold. Categories include all clothes, shoes, accessories, Halloween costumes, and sports jerseys.

Paper: shredding will be available; you can drop off up to 10 copy-paper boxes of personal documents for details, to review what you can and can’t drop off, or to find out how to schedule a free large-appliance pickup, visit www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/get-rid-household-hazardous-waste/faceted-materials. Other drop-offs, all Saturdays, will take place June 18, Aug. 13, Sept. 24, and Nov. 19.

> WS DEVELOPMENT from page 2

Desimone, is listed on LinkedIn as a partner at WS Development

There are a few notable things in the public record about the Fenway Corners developer:

• No sign of the Weiners as owners or investors.

• There are no names in the public filings of anyone associated with Fenway Sports Group or the DiAngelo family business.

Does it matter that we can’t know completely (or at all) who are the actual owners of the development company, and who are the investors? That’s a matter of opinion. I do think that in this case, Fenway Sports Group’s lingering in the background of discussions about project benefits and impacts without putting FSG’s report card on the table is something that should be remedied going forward.

Matt Thall lives in the East Fens. You’ll also find coverage of the project’s April community meeting on this page.
May Calendar

Now ☦ Sun, 5/8

OUR DAUGHTERS LIKE PILLARS debuts at the Huntington. Kristen Greenidge’s play drops us into a black Boston family’s vacation that, like many “perfect” vacations, threatens to founder on family dynamics. As the Huntington’s preciss asks, “Will togetherness split this family apart, or can it bring them together?” Tickets $25—$99. Tue-Sat, 7:30pm; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2pm. At Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont St. Visit https://www.huntingtontheatre.org/

Now ☦ Mon, 5/9

In 1903 Kodak introduced a camera that made postcard-sized negatives, enabling anyone to create postcards of anything that caught their eye. The resulting “real photo postcards” often captured unusual or every day events, not tourist views. REAL PHOTO POSTCARDS: PICTURES FROM A CHANGING NATION continues through July. Thu-Mon, 10am-5pm; Fri until 10pm. Tickets $27 adults, $10 ages 7-17, free for members. Details at www.nma.org.

Fri, 4/29 & Sun, 5/1

HANDEL + HAYDN bids farewell to artistic director Harry Christophers with a perfor - schedule and author biographies, at www. handelandhaydn.org. Fri, 4/29 & Sun, 5/1

SATURDAY 4/30

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE—which started out as the film that won the 1998 best picture Oscar—delivers a whirlwind of mistaken identities, bent genders, convoluted schemes, and backstage fireworks. BU’s College of Fine Arts gives the show a whirl at the Joan & Edgar Booth Theatre, 820 Comm. Ave. Sun 2pm; Wed-Sat 7:30pm; Sat, 5/7, 2pm and 7:30pm. Tickets $20 (reduced cost for BU community members). More info at https://www.bu.edu/cfa/theatre/season-2/.

Wed, 5/4, 5/18, & 6/1

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes residents to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. 3-4pm. Contact Anar kansara at aksamarsa@fenwaycde.org or (617) 267-4437 x213 for additional information.

Thu, 5/5, 5/19, & 6/2

LOWER ROXBURY/SOUTH END FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes residents to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. New Balance Family Fitness Center, 1205 Commonwealth Ave. 11am-2pm. Contact CitySource at CitySource@fenwaycde.org or (617) 267-4437 x15 for additional information.

Tue, 5/3 Fri, 5/20

BFA THESIS EXHIBITION at BU’s School of Visual Arts combines graphic design, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Stone Gallery, 855 Comm. Ave. (College of Fine Arts). Details at https://www.bu.edu/cfa/news-events/events/

Wed, May 11

Join SIERRA CLUB MASSACHUSETTS leaders on Zoom for their Advocacy Hour: Transportation Update. Learn more about regular Advocacy Hour topics, view recordings of past Advocacy Hours, and RSVP at https://www.sierraclub.org/ma-nature-connects-and-attend-events/find-local-events-and-opportunities/ma-nature-connects-webinar-series/. Make a difference for our climate by taking action at MOTHERS OUT FRONT’s 8th & FUNDRAISER on Zoom at 6:00pm.

Thu, May 12

Join The Nature Conservancy’s state chapter for a conversation with the co-leads of the WOMEN IN CLIMATE INITIATIVE, Stephanie Holzhau and Kristie Giannetto. Also on hand will be Taylor Meyers, founder and president of the Black Environmental Activist Movement and a master’s candidate at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design. 12pm. Register at https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/volunteer-and-attend-events/find-local-events-and-opportunities/ma-nature-connects-webinar-series/ for this and other upcoming webinars.