

**West Fairmount Hill Community Meeting**  
**April 27, 2020**  
**6:30-8:00pm**

**Notes**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<p>Marcia Kimm opened the meeting and introduced the leadership team for West Fairmount Hill Community Group ( WFH). Josephine Hoey, Cathy Horn, John MacDonald and Nathaniel Thomas, each introduced themselves to the Group.</p>
<p><b>Attendee Acknowledgements, Meeting Agenda &amp; Review WFH Activities</b></p>	<p>Marcia welcomed attending City officials, speakers and community partners. Marcia mentioned that the Community has followed up on actions from the last meeting including support to the Hyde Park Food Pantry and volunteering from the City’s Volunteer Pool to call seniors and deliver food. There is a current effort to reach out to and honor First responders, Health Care Workers and Essential Workers in the area. WFH has partnered with FHNA to deliver “thank you” lawn signs to all first responders in the WFH area. Marcia invited a few of the first responders to the meeting so that could be celebrated. There is work underway for continued acknowledgement of all our essential workers and first responders in the area. During this meeting those in attendance were identified, thanked and applauded for their service.</p>
<p><b>Mayor Walsh Recognition, Comments and Q &amp; A</b></p>	<p>The WFH Community created a video that thank Mayor Walsh for his continued leadership during the Pandemic. The video, which featured residents offering cheers and thanks, was played just before the Mayor spoke and the group acknowledged him with applause. The Mayor opened his remarks with thanks to the WFH Group for continuing to meet – especially at this critical time and thanked us for the video. He acknowledged Councilors Arroyo and Essaibi-George who were also present for the meeting. He also thanked area E-18 officers, front line workers- including those in City government, medical personnel and other essential workers, also on the call. The Mayor gave a brief update on update on Coronavirus pandemic in Boston. To date there are 8,421 cases in Boston and 325 deaths. He offered his condolences to those with losses and gave well wishes to those who are ill well. He noted that Hyde Park, while not having the highest amount of cases in the City, it has the highest number of case per capita with 617 cases. He noted that the City is also increasing testing overall by 30% . There are a total of</p>

15 testing sites in the City and there are plans to add more. The City is also in partnership with MGH to do antibody testing Mayor Walsh also acknowledged Bryan Flynn as a contact for this area and again thanks those in the City of Boston who are working hard. He noted that before he was Mayor, he was president of a Civic Association and understands the importance of Civic Associations [neighborhood groups] because they are the eyes and ears of the city. The Mayor fielded many questions. Some of the questions included:

- a City Wide Litter Campaign in partnership with KHPB ( along with Love you Block). Mayor Walsh advocates for and encourages residents to keep their property clean and will partner with KPHB in the future
- There is suffering with COVID-19 – along with physical and wondering about financial fall out - especially in this area, with mortgages, rents, bills, etc., from the Pandemic? Mayor Walsh suggests calling 311 for support with mortgage programs and to learn about legislation to help with rents and landlord actions.
- When will the City start moving COVID-19 testing from symptomatic people to non-symptomatic folks? Mayor Walsh’s says they are working on expanding testing
- There are residents who need food and not willing to call or are too proud to ask. The Mayor suggests passing on the names of those in need to Bryan or ask them to call 311 which will give them access to food.
- There are kids who are missing school – what are the plans for summer camps, youth enrichment programs or summer jobs? Mayor Walsh explains that there are some discussions and they are exploring their options but there is no decision made yet.
- What about the open spaces and opportunities for CPA funding especially for projects and parks in Hyde Park; 74% of open spaces in Hyde Park is owned by the state - DCR. How do we deal with jurisdictional impasses and seizing opportunities with CPA funds? The Mayor suggests working with the City Councilor, DPW and Mayor’s office to work on funding for parks and open space. He is willing to be a partner in this.
- Concerns about the new 5G technology and the harmful effects of it on the environment and our health. Mayor Walsh will get expert to answer the question of 5G- likely in next meeting or even in a post meeting communication.
- What about an open-spaced “dance off” while still observing social distancing rules. The Mayor says he misses the social connections as much as everyone and would like to see people out. For now he

	<p>asks that everyone follow CDC guidelines on face coverings, cleanings and physical distancing and will revisit this idea when it is safe to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Question about the impact of school cancellation on graduating high school seniors; Mayor Walsh has meetings with Superintendent on Thursday to discuss this and other school issues.</li> <li>- What is the projected opening for BPL? The Mayor says any opening of City buildings and services will be determined by data and public health conversations.</li> </ul> <p>There were other questions and the mayor had another engagement. He has committed to attending the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p>
<p><b>Councilor Arroyo Moment</b></p>	<p>Councilor Arroyo, a new WFH resident, greeted the group and announced that he moved in the neighborhood over the weekend. Offered thanks volunteers who are calling seniors and helping them get access to food and medicine. There is still a chance for others to volunteer to call seniors. Please sign up using the form found here: <a href="https://forms.gle/Qkezn5EeZwb2a4c7">https://forms.gle/Qkezn5EeZwb2a4c7</a></p> <p>The Councilor also invited folks to the budget hearings for the City – they can be viewed online. The link to watch the hearings will be shared. He also encourages everyone to his office at 617-635-4210 with questions or requests for support. Finally, he announced that Brigham and Women’s Faulkner hospital is offering free COVID-19 testing for anyone and they are also giving out food and information.</p>
<p><b>Census Moment</b></p>	<p>Shelly Gillis, Partnership Specialist US Census Bureau addressed the group. She shared that the Census is counting 330 million Americans and it is important because it determines our representation, voting, infrastructure, school districts and federal funding and much more. The Census is safe and confidential and this year there is an online form that residents can complete. Everyone can do the census and you can do it from home. Paper forms are also available if you prefer to complete it this way. The response rate to the posted online and Boston is behind. A support document will be emailed to residents in a separate email.</p>
<p><b>Boston Police Brief Report</b></p>	<p>John Macdonald introduced Officer Broderick and other Partners at E-18 to give the Police Report. Here are the items mentioned that occurred in April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>172 Garfield Ave – assault by female with a bottle</li> <li>205 Garfield Ave – robbery of iPhone and wallet and sneakers</li> <li>215 Garfield Ave --armed robbery of cell phone</li> </ul>

	<p>146 Garfield Ave – 4 tires of motor vehicle slashed  197 Garfield Ave – 3 tires of motor vehicles flattened  Gang cars and drug units are still on patrol in the Garfield and Bow street areas.</p>
<p><b>Coping Skills for The Moment</b></p>	<p>Marcia introduced Nicole Tennermann, a local Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is in private practice. Nicole presented information on Coping skills during this very stressful time. She addressed people who are aging, who are ill, who have lost loved ones, with health conditions and people on the front lines – first responders- all can experience extra stress at this time . It is important to address our mental health now because it is important to our resilience and overall health; She gave a few quick tip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check in with yourself. Become aware of what you are seeing</li> <li>- Pay attention to children and the impact of stress.</li> <li>- physical movement can help a lot</li> <li>- Do not be afraid to reach out.</li> </ul> <p>Nicole also gave a more extensive list of coping skills that are attached to these notes and will be emailed separately.</p>
<p><b>Q and A for All</b></p>	<p>Council Essaibi George greeted the group expressing empathy for the fear of the unknown and the difficult time we are living in. She also talked about her mask-making project. She has offered to make masks for those who need them in the area. Please call her office for mask or email WFH to add your name to the already created list of orders. Once they are masks are made, they can be picked up at the Stitch House. The Councilor also acknowledged her chief of staff included in the meeting – Jessica Rodriquez.</p> <p>There was a question for Mental Health Guest from a college aged resident, inquiring about coping skill for college students who cannot have a physical graduation this May. A part of the answer included an offer for WFH to do a special ceremony at the Mau 18<sup>th</sup> meeting for all WFH graduates.</p> <p>There was a question about antibody testing and its expansion to Hyde Park. Council Essabi-George says there is a small study and it is a snapshot and it will get expanded. There is more discussion to be had because we need more widespread testing to open up the City and State and this antibody testing is one of the first steps.</p>
	<p>John closed the meeting by reminding first responders to share their contact information for our project to thank them. He also thanked everyone- Shelly Gillis, Nicole Tennermann, Area E-18 Captain and officers, Councilor Arroyo and his staff , Councilor Essaibi-George and her staff, The Mayor and his team and office, Dave McNulty,</p>

	<p>the BHA Team, all first responders and essential personnel and each resident and guest who attended . He also asked residents to invite other residents to the next meeting and confirmed the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting , reminding us that will also serve as a small graduation ceremony.</p>