



December 2, 2019 | 6:30-8:00pm

I. Council Members Present (updated)

Fatima Ali-Salaam, Chair
Cynthia Beckford-Brewington
June Joseph
Mirlande Joseph, Asst Treasurer (absent)
David Lopes
Lenore Pereira
Nichelle Nicole Purvis-Donnell (absent)
Ruby James Saucer
Vickey Siggers, Treasurer
Matthew Skelly, Secretary (absent)
Janae Tooley, Vice Chair

II. Meeting minutes from November not approved

III. Presenters

a) Presenters Name: Tanisha Sullivan, President of NAACP – Boston

- Hyde Park resident – acknowledges the members of the NAACP in attendance
- Sen Nick Collins and Rep Russell Holmes, both members of NAACP
- Discussion will be primarily geared towards how young people can learn from those who've paved the way to effectuate change
- Social change is like a relay race – everyone has their lap to run and everyone needs to be working together. It can't pit one generation against another.
- The NAACP nationally was founded in 1909, the oldest Civil Rights Org (and the largest) committed to the eradication of race discrimination
- The Boston Branch is the oldest Branch in the association. Boston Charter's was received at the Park Street Church
- The first members of the association were incredibly diverse, men, women, black, white, young, old. The organization was founded on diversity. In order to see the change, the NAACP wants to see in our country, it takes everyone working together.
- There is significant influence at the national NAACP level from Boston



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- NAACP is also importantly religiously diverse. Deep history of involvement with Jewish leaders.
- NAACP cares about housing, criminal justice reform, civic engagement and education, many other themes in commons with GMNC
- NAACP was an early supporter of the Promise Act and the Student opportunity Act
- Worked for three and a half years on issues with Exam School equity
- Teacher diversity remains a top goal for the Boston Branch
- Included in the court order that called for bussing 45 years ago, was a requirement for teacher diversity – NAACP was the plaintiff in the lawsuit that that got the teacher diversity goals enacted
- NAACP monitors the City's compliance with both the letter and the spirit of the law
- The City has evolved from a demographic standpoint, so it's important that not only are there black teachers in the district but Latinx as well.
- Economic Equality is also a huge topic for the Boston Branch
- Her mom ran the black pages for many years, so Mattapan Square is a special place to her. When her mother sold her building, it was converted into the Mattapan Health Center, so she has great pride in her family being community first
- When we think about our individual growth, we can't be blinded by 'what's best for me' and we need to focus on what's best for the community.
- The black pages of New England were about investing in black owned businesses to build a community
- Built on the belief that economic stability in a community strengthens the community in a large number of ways
- Unapologetic about advocacy because it works
- National NAACP convention is coming to Boston! July 25-29 in the Seaport. Expecting 12,000-15,000 people generating \$11M for the City
- Although the convention will be down on the seaport, the branch is working with local and state elected to provide transportation to the convention and to also bring the convention out to the other neighborhoods. T
- The Seaport is the least diverse neighborhood in the City, can't control that
- Working hard on making sure there's programming in Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan
- If you're interested in volunteering for the convention or becoming a member, go to their website. Only \$30 per year!



Q: What is the commitment from the City to make sure some of the event money comes to our neighborhood?

A: Discretionary spending includes vendors like transportation, florists, caterers, etc provide opportunities to engage local members, specifically vendors of color. NAACP is committed to trying to use vendors of color.

Q: How does the NAACP engage local youth groups?

A: NAACP has adult branches which have the opportunity to have youth councils, and is looking for a youth advisor. Opportunities for high school chapters. There was a high school chapter at East Boston High School. Just chartered UMass Boston, and hoping to reactivate the BU Chapter. For the convention, NAACP is actively looking for ways to engage the young people. There's a youth competition that takes place during the convention that will have between 1,500 and 2,000 competitors competing for medals.

There are 30 different disciplines, so basically any talent can work. Also looking for mentors and judges. NAACP also provides assistance to students and teachers around challenges related to race.

Q: Does NAACP have a job posting board?

A: No general job board, however NAACP does have a history of matching qualified people up with jobs, so they should be made aware of job openings. They also work with employers who are interested in improving their diversity and their inclusivity. They do an assessment of the company's recruitment systems as well as their inclusionary practices.

· Applications were handed out to become an NAACP

b) Ronald Carroll Director of Mattapan Boys & Girls Club since 2014

· Ronald has history with people in the room, like Rep Holmes, who have been involved in his life since he was very young

· Motivated to figure out ways to help each other

· Has about 85 kids every day over the summer

· Ronald was never a resident, but spent a lot of time at Almont Park growing up and on Tennis Road

· Best thing anyone can do is stop by to see the facility where they help mold young people to be the best they can possibly be

· Primary group called Keystoners who are basically the Board for the club.

Trying to be involved and active however they can.

· Core areas are education and opportunity, health and wellness

Q: How long has it been around for?



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A: Boys and girls club started in Charlestown a very long time ago, great opportunities to collaborate with local businesses

Q: What is the best way to support the club?

A: The best way is to come by, get a background check, and then it's totally up to the volunteer to come up with a schedule for how they want to volunteer. It takes a village. Chess is a very popular game at the teen center, also pool, need people to come play!

Q: How do we help get kids to go?

A: It's not a place where youth have to come every day. People can come when they want to, and be a part of somewhere safe, even when it's cold outside, there are hot meals every day, a soundproof booth to listen to music. All about trying to take kids to the next level

Q: Could the young people from the teen center be a part of video taping the GMNC meetings next year?

A: Yes

Q: Is this club separate from the one in Dorchester?

A: Mattapan club is affiliated with all the other clubs in the City, of which there are dozens. Mattapan is the first stand alone teen center though.

Q: Do you do college tours?

A: Yes, college tours and any type of exposure to higher education, HBCUs, architecture, etc. c)

CJ Valerus – Artist and Engineer (updated)

- Went to trade school in Boston, and moved away from Mattapan for a little while
- Then did a lot of work without going to college and moved up in the world of plastics engineering
- Upon moving back to Mattapan he became passionate about activating the vacant spaces
- How do we get back to a place where we have a true community where people feel safe in their community
- Try to find a vacant space, clean it, and make it a place that people will want to use
- The biggest way they've tried to do this is with agriculture – converting small areas into farms with raised beds and coordinating with young people to participate in that
- #Farmcollab on Instagram has a lot of pictures of what they do



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· 424 Geneva Ave has a greenhouse, 44 Aspinwall has about 8 raised bed plots, and they're open to everyone. No gates or keys or signups. Everybody plants and harvests and nobody fights · Also involved with Mattapan love this summer · CJ used to be able to ride his bike all the way down Blue Hill Ave without worry at all about crime, nobody was necessarily keeping track of them

Q: Could people from either the boys and girls club or CJ's organization team up with seniors to connect one on one to do some gardening?

A: Definitely. CJ has worked with seniors in the past, and they will connect to do it again Q: Do you farm over the winter?

A: We're working on developing greenhouses with soil technology and hydroponics – it's a missed opportunity if we don't

Q: What's the contact info?

A: farmerscollaborative@gmail.com and contact info is on the website

IV. Working Committees – No updates this month.

V – Wrap Up Announcements

· Cynthia Johnson Smith from West Selden Streets – MLK Breakfast will be held at the American Legion Post on Blue Hill Ave. Doors open at 9am, breakfast at 10am, tickets are only \$20. Monday January 21.

· Joy Gary, Mattapan Resident – Boston Food Access Council meeting in the 316 Huntington Avenue YMCA. Looking to get more Mattapan residents in attendance

· Jovan Lacet – kickoff meeting is Friday December 6, 6pm-8pm at the American Legion Post. All are invited

· Roudnie had to leave early because of a fire on Talbot Ave, but she wanted to make announcement for the tree lighting this Friday at 4pm in the Square.

Cynthia Brewington is the MC so we all have to come out! If anyone is interesting in volunteering, get in touch with Roudnie. Also an epic fire show and a scavenger hunt. Parking lot behind the Post Office.

· GMNC will be inviting at least one or two representatives from the neighborhood associations to make sure we're hearing feedback and serving the community as best we can. As a solutions based organization we need to continue to evolve to better serve the community.

· 10 additional seats for the GMNC board up in January. No elected, nobody with a board seat on another non-profit, anyone 16 and up is eligible.

· GMNC will also be collecting dues formally starting in January. We will be able to accept payment online or in person, and we will be providing balance updates periodically.



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- Rep Holmes collecting the paperwork for everyone who's interested in enrolling in the NAACP. It's a very critical year next year, and we really need to get our membership numbers up.
- Barbara letting everyone know that you can make phone calls Friday December 6 at City 7am – 2pm for free