



GMNC Monthly Meeting
November 2, 2020 6:30-8:00 pm
Online Meeting via zoom

Meeting Minutes

I. Council Members Present

Fatima Ali-Salaam, Chair
Janae Tooley, Vice Chair
David Halbert
Ruby James Saucer
William King
Matthew Skelly, Secretary
June Joseph
Nikkia Jean-Charles
Joy Gary

Council Members Absent

Michel Gray
Lenore Perreira
Mirlande Joseph, Assistant Treasurer
David Lopes
Cynthia Brewington
Nichelle Nicole Purvis-Donnell
Vickey Siggers, Treasurer

II. Presenter: Allentza Michel, Powerful Pathways

- Background in urban planning and community organizing.
- Mattapan residents have often been on the table, but not at the table. We need to find ways to become more politically engaged and make intergenerational connections between all of us.
- Deeply involved in the creation of GMNC.
- The Mattapan Mapping Project – teamed up with Lily Song from Harvard and Laurie Goldman from Tufts, Barry Fradkin, Sasha Hulkower, Cecely Hill, Fatima Al-Salaam, Kayla Patel also team members
- Funded by a grant from the Sasaki Foundation
- Mattapan is 84% resident who identify as people of color. Large percentage of youth and elders.
- 68% of households have a lower income than the City average. And 60% face a housing burden in 2016 vs 45% in 200.
- Only 13% of Mattapan's housing stock is currently income restricted.
- Mattapan has a history of activism to get what it needs
- Current Land Use data is inaccessible, we need a better system
- The Mattapan Mapping Tool captures land use data such as housing stock, land use trends, development projects, and uses nuanced data such as photo and video (like of the "we buy ugly

houses” signs) cultural assets like Simcos, and examples of police and informative data sets. That also include audio files as well.

- The tool will be Open Source, user friendly, ADA accommodating (large font), reflective of geographic boundary shifts to show the shrinking neighborhood and the impact on our political power, highlight culturally valuable sites and places of meaning, including the history and design of those developments.
- A community member can log into the map and view indicators and recent and upcoming development projects; look up zoning information; find out about a special neighborhood site; learn about a land or housing issue; provide feedback on how the tool works.
- Additional partners are GMNC, URBAN Boston, Code for Boston – and all of us participate to make the tool work better!
- Now is the time for a tool like this – between the national issues going on, the planning process currently under way, and gives us the opportunity to rebrand Mattapan’s past, present and future. It will help de-stigmatize communities of color, and expand the definition and analysis of displacement.
- This could also potentially help us move toward a community land trust.
- Sign up to join a field research team or for an oral history video: <https://forms.gle/wsL82o3XYDM9MEzi7>
- Sign up to join an E-box Paint Team: <https://forms.gle/XCamcnjmJokQNZbH8>

Q: Maria Amezcuita – Here to support work in the neighborhood!

A: Thanks

Q: Secretary Matthew Skelly – What’s the timeline for this coming online?

A: We’re looking at this being fully ready in June 2021, with a trial group testing it out sometime in April.

Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam – There has been a growing movement to recognize landmarks of historical significance in our neighborhood, such as the Baker Chocolate Factory, and the Puddingstone area on Blue Hill Avenue where Native Americans made arrowheads. It only take 10 residents to get this process started!

Q: Jeanne Richardson – Why is Mattapan shrinking?

A: It’s largely a political thing, but GMNC uses the BPDA map, so the GMNC will not be sinking.

Q: Kenya Beamon – I’ve had a really hard time trying to engage our Caribbean/Latinx/Haitian residents to get involved in the community process, especially during the pandemic. Do you have any advice on how to do a better job with that?

A: We have a lot of ideas about how to do that, they might not all work, but we have things to try. One idea is to meet the people where they are, and that might not necessarily even be in Mattapan. For instance, my neighbors, who were displaced from Jamaica Plain not that long ago still hand out in Hyde Square.

Q: Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam – we have other ideas about how to engage more people from the community as well. It can be very challenging when people speak other languages. The more diversity the better! Reach out to Fatima if you’d like to help with this.

A: We did have some predetermined goals, such as a mix of the rental and home ownership, which was a must. As far as the mix of income levels, we knew we needed a mix of income levels to help drive getting different amenities into the neighborhood. You need some people with expendable income to help support the amenities. There’s deep levels of affordability up to moderate. Could we do more home ownership? Potentially, but it’s largely based on the amount of funding that’s available.

Q: Earl Faulk – I've done a big book on the genealogy of my family, and many times the children ask what was here before. History never stops, but if you don't keep a documentary and tell the next generation where you came from it can get lost in the shuffle.

A: It's like a living documentary, which is a great idea.

Q: Cassandra Cato-Louis – there definitely may be young people from the Boys and Girls Club or the Mildred Center who are looking for something more to do during Covid.

A: We have been working with folks from ROC

Q: Malaika Lucien – I love this concept! Will this mapping device be able to track the type of variances that are most likely to be requested for upcoming projects? Perhaps the mapping device could be used compare how gentrification happened to other neighborhoods and could also predict parts of Mattapan at a "greater risk" for gentrification. I came in a little late so I apologize if this was already covered earlier in the presentation

A: Great question Malaika - yes! We've already been in communication with other neighborhood councils to learn more about their experiences.

Q: Lana Jackson – I've lived in Mattapan almost 40 years. We all take for granted that the people who live here know Mattapan. But there ought to be tours of the history of Mattapan. Including exhibits in the library and tours of all of our newer buildings, too. I don't know of any soccer teams in Mattapan to cheer for, and it seems like everyone in Mattapan is doing their own separate things. It seems like everyone is looking for something to do downtown, but it starts right here at home. We need to put more value on the parts of our neighborhood that we love. Mattapan has a lot to offer, but a lot of people don't know about it.

A: That's a big part of what the tool can be used for, and goes back to de-stigmatizing the community. There are a lot of great things in Mattapan, including the people! Also, every year Allentza organizes a walking tour of Mattapan, unfortunately not this year, but will again in the future.

Q: Yvette Phillip - <https://www.livelikeyalocaltoursboston.com/tours> does tours of Boston...but Mattapan is not listed. Good way to partner with a Black Owned business to create a Mattapan Tour

A: Great idea! We do occasionally have visitors to our neighborhood from out of town

Q: Dennis Roach – Regarding the history of Mattapan, I've seen how things changed around here since back when I was in Junior High School, and it would be great to have a reference to back then.

A: My mother saw her first movie at the Oriental Theater!

II. Presenter: Councilor Andrea Campbell

- Thank you Allentza, thank you to the GMNC, thank you to our City employees
- The media tends to view Mattapan from a deficit lens and does not recognize all of the great things that are happening here.
- The election is tomorrow! GOTV! (Get out the vote) I hope I don't need to tell you who to vote for.
- Vote Yes on 2 for Ranked Choice Voting.
- We're seeing Covid cases on the rise again. Please take all the precautions necessary to keep yourself safe.
- We're tracking all the development going on in our neighborhood, and thank you to all of the other people in the meeting who help with that.

Updates also from Malaika and Annissa Essaibi- George.

VI. Committee Reports

1. Public Services – Report from Committee Co-Chair Matthew Skelly: last month we welcomed Jeff Alexis, the PWD project manager for the Cummins Highway project. This month we plan to focus on the Blue Hill Avenue studies.
2. Environmental Committee – Report from Committee Co-Chair William King – We're hoping to get some good news soon on what we've been working on for the Mattahunt Woods.
3. Zoning Committee – Report from Council Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam – meeting coming up on Thursday November 19 to discuss items that are listed on the GMNC website.
4. Housing Committee – Report from Committee Co-Chair Joy Gary – The Committee has been on pause during Covid, but we'll be meeting on November 12, trying to work on drafting some preliminary designs around creating an educational model for us as a community.

V – Wrap Up Announcements

- Roudnie Celestin Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) – I'd love to help with outreach to the Haitian community. Covid rates are up by 7.8%. You can get tested at the Jubilee parking lot until November 14.
- Nikkia Jean Charles – Mattapan is getting a Community Fridge up and running very soon. It's a place where community members can leave food they don't need or take food they do. Sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6pmRtNRC5JfKRchXPgUAqLsTkqmr95D-9ktN4YNrSuhbhIA/viewform>
- Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam – Tomorrow is PSC meeting, Matthew Skelly will send out the invitation.
 - DND Meeting about the Blue Hill Ave B3 and B4 Parcels on November 10
- Jeff Similien – 120 Babson is potentially going to be converted into a 37 unit assisted living facility. Also the Payless on Blue Hill Avenue.
- David Holness – make sure you check your ballot status! <http://TrackmyballotMA.com>

VI – Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes by Matthew Skelly
- Seconded by David Halbert
- Approved unanimously