



GMNC Monthly Meeting  
March 1, 2021 6:30-8:00 pm  
Online Meeting via zoom

### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Council Members Present

Fatima Ali-Salaam, Chair  
Janae Tooley, Vice Chair  
Matthew Skelly, Secretary  
June Joseph  
Joy Gary  
William King  
Nikkia Jean-Charles  
David Lopes  
Vickey Siggers, Treasurer  
David Halbert

#### Council Members Absent

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

#### II – Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the February 1, 2021 minutes subject to corrections by Matthew Skelly
- Seconded by June Joseph
- Approved unanimously

Announcement – GMNC Board member Ruby James Saucer has moved outside of the City and is no longer on the board.

#### III. Presenter: Dr. Atiya Martin, CEO & Founder of All Aces, Inc.

- Born and raised in Boston, mother of five!
- Connecting the dots between what we know to be the best and most promising practices, and the way the world currently works is a professional passion.
- How do we deal with the root causes of why we need to have so much resilience in the first place?
- A lot of Dr. Martin's work is about reimagining the power of community.
- Dealing with Covid-19 has made this past year really hard. Getting people access to the vaccine through black Boston has been really hard.
- It's important to demand the resources required for resiliency.

- “Power without accountability is a recipe for disaster.” It’s organizations like GMNC that help enforce that accountability.
- People should get the return on investment that put into this City, this State and the Country.

Q: Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam – we’re so happy to hear you say what we all know. That we should be demanding more from our government. What are some of the tools that you have seen used by other groups in other neighborhoods to move forward?

A: One resource is each other. This is really hard so you have to lean on each other. Another is the ‘inside outside’ strategies. Usually the people who are closest to the work want things to happen the right way, so you can have an offline conversation on how to navigate the crazy politics and everything else. Just because someone works for the City doesn’t mean they’re a sellout. And they might not be able to do or say the things publicly that you want them to, but when you talk to them off line you’ll have a better connection. Sometimes you can arrange to be a partner behind closed doors in a mutual beneficial way.

Q: Allentza Michel – there’s an important difference between knowing what you want and being combative. Communities of color are often referred to unfairly as combative by folks in power. Do you have any advice about how to react to that?

A: The most important thing is to remember exactly what you want and who you are, because sometimes comments like that can derail you when they shouldn’t. Another important thing is the narrative. If you’re being called ‘aggressive’ when you’re trying to help your community, you need to shift that narrative and reframe it around your passion.

Q: Kathy Glynn - Government systems often rely on repetition to deliver services in the least costly and most efficient manner. Problem is: how to encourage the kind of creativity, so important to resiliency, in that environment?

A: Efficiency and effectiveness are not necessarily the same thing. In order to be effective with any policy, equity needs to be built into it right from the beginning. In government there used to be the three E’s: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness. Now it’s the four E’s and it includes Equity. It’s important to look around to other communities for best practices. When people can’t even envision what different looks like, it’s hard to expect them to come out and do things better.

Q: Juwan Skeens – when you’re trying to do what’s best for you, it doesn’t always work for everyone else. When you’re trying to collaborate in a community it’s important to establish trust. Teamwork makes the dream work.

Q: Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam – you helped bring the funding from the Rockefeller Foundation for the Chief Resiliency Officer position for the City. Can you talk about the individual responsibility in moving forward?

A: We can all create positive and negative experiences for the others around us. The first stop is always with each of us individually. I struggled with understanding racism and how it works – I understand how it felt and how it worked, but I didn’t necessarily see myself in the story. It’s easy to look at everyone else and what they are and are not doing, but I needed to look at myself and what I was and was not doing. Not every single person can speak out on every single injustice. If I tolerate someone talking to me or treating me in a certain way, I am co-signing that behavior in perpetuity.

Q: Frank O’Brien – regarding your Resilience Report, what did you think worked with it, what might you have done differently?

A: I’m extra proud of that report. The amount of community meetings, events, workshops, plays, movie screenings and everything else we did to get feedback from the community. It was a labor of love from a lot of people who did it totally out of passion because they cared about the community and the issues. The final document might have come from the City, but the work came from the community. I wish I had been more

strategic about advocating for resources. It was great that some of the initiatives actually happened, and even though some of the projects aren't sexy, like sidewalks, they're really important.

#### IV. Committee Reports

1. Public Services – Report from Committee Co-Chair Matthew Skelly – Meeting tomorrow night we will welcome the Mattapan Mapping project to discuss how to better tell our stories, specifically related to the Blue Hill Avenue project.
2. Environmental Committee – Report from Committee Chair William King – next meeting is on March 8.
3. Housing Committee – Report from Committee Co-Chair Joy Gary – Got a presentation at last month's meeting on the Loop project from POAH, it's available online. Next committee meeting will be Thursday March 18.
4. Zoning Committee – Community meeting from the BPDA coming on changing the rule about parking as an accessory dwelling. Look for info on the GMNC website. Next meeting will be March 18 at 6:30pm.

#### V – Wrap Up Announcements

- Kenya Beamon – call for artists for a mural at the Carter Post on Regis Road. Hoping to get a local artist, all expenses paid by the BPDA. Reach out to Kenya if you know anyone who might be interested!
- Barbara Crichlow – ISD workshop on Zoning on March 10 at 4:30. Look for updates coming by email soon.
- Fatima Ali-Salaam – Check out the new zoning tracker online:  
[https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page\\_0/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page_0/)
- Alicia from Councilor Flaherty's office – reach out for more information on vaccine distribution.
- Brianna Millor – working on an ordinance on Good Food Purchasing for the city.
- Jordan Frias – brand new Chief of Staff from Ricardo Arroyo's Office.
- Representative Fluker-Oakley – Vaccine locations at Morningstar Church and at the YMCA in Hyde Park. Grant for local businesses:  
<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210225005858/en/MassMutual-Launches-50-Million-MM-Catalyst-Fund-to-Spur-Job-Creation-and-Business-Growth-Among-Diverse-Entrepreneurs-in-the-Commonwealth-of-Massachusetts>
- Juwan Skeens from ROC – Responding to an RFP to create a community life skills center on Morton Street <http://chng.it/nqdmhY98>; <http://chng.it/qX9Qfc85>
- Fatima Ali-Salaam – Our election will be held in June, and nomination papers will be available sometime during the middle of this month.