



## GROUP 3 NOTES FROM MARCH 7, 2007 COMMUNITY AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

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### MAIN STREETS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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#### Promoting Local Businesses

- Oak Sq. + BRI CTR need other types of businesses (pizza, nails)
- Negative = Parking, Big Box
- Need More: Hardware
- Bri Ctr – no hang-out spots
- Neg: Loss of Boomerangs
- Neg: a lot of Irish bars/pubs
- Avinage lost antiques
- Shop rents rising
- Want book store

#### Design and Safety Issues

- Safety? OK (Cleveland Circle traffic nightmare, Danger!)
- Big Box vs. “unique”
- People pick re: Price . See Coolidge Corner! Destinations Cluster
- No gun violence
- Drunk Drivers when bars close
- Capenation Model
- Need Trader Joe’s!
- Parking? CVS lot + closed gas station
- Model? Smaller grocery
- Parking Structure? Wirt Street?

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### HOUSING

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- Keep families in housing
- Misrepresentations by developers
- Elderly leaving
- Transient groups
- Build more dorms
- Subsidy for homeownership
- Stability and owner occupancy
- Affordable rental housing for non-students (young families)
- Better transportation (commuter rail)
- University assistance to graduates to buy
- Shuttle loop to Brighton center

#### Housing

- Higher density
- Condition of rental housing is extremely poor
- Better code enforcement
  - No response/follow-up from ISD
- Posting of building owner names/numbers
- ISD intern for community
- Assistance to complete Our Ladies Presentation (OLP) Foundation

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\* – bulleted points denoted with an asterisk ( \* ) at the end were mentioned at the end of the workshop’s reporting back session as among the two more important issues for each of the group’s four workshop topics



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## OPEN SPACE, PUBLIC REALM & STREETScape

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- Connection between OS + Commercial (Rogers, e.g.)
- Wayfinding (Signage connection)
- Act as attraction/ marketing
- Preserve VWs (private OS) through negotiation – CR's
- Improve nbhd connection to Charles River Park lands
  - Improve existing underpasses
  - Overpasses-widen-more
- Art/mural –Enhance alley to city p-lot from Camb. St (Brighton Ctr)
- Publicize Street tree program more
- Need to discuss institutional expansion
- Media boxes-redence/ eliminate

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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### \*ISD enforcement

- wants to know outcome/ followup
  - volunteering + mentoring in neighborhood schools
  - ISD ordinance r:(contact info)
    - Posting info on landlords in large buildings –is it happening/enforced (City council passed last year?)
    - Neighborhood wants to know who to call
  - city projects w/interns
  - connect w/students
    - Students who mentor/volunteer
    - Student expertise
  - census data on long term residents
  - colleges should help students stay after graduation
  - jobs/internships for HS kids
- Master leasing- takes affordable units out of community housing→ dorms = bad

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## REPORTING BACK SESSION SUMMARY – TOP POINTS FOR EACH TOPIC \*

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### Promoting Local Businesses

- Destination ( better retail mix) \*
- Parking/commuter rail \*

### Housing

- ISD ~ code enforcement , better communication \*
- Strategy for home ownership (
  - o University assistance for grads to purchase homes
  - o Instead of “low income” create “moderate income” housing for A/B

### Open Space

- Publicize all parks \*
  - o Rogers Park connects
- Better access to river \*
- Conservation easements \*

### Community Development

- Inspire community involvement of the students \*

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