



## GROUP 4<sup>1</sup> NOTES FROM MARCH 7, 2007 COMMUNITY AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

---

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

---

#### (2) Public schools—lots of neighborhood resources, partnerships \*

- More equity for institutions across neighborhood
- Mailing addresses available to community groups to help with outreach on community projects
  - Help people connect with each other
  - Partnership with local newspaper
- ISD enforcement
  - Front yard paving
  - Boarding/over-occupying
  - Late night noise
  - Lots can be done by enforcing what already exists
  - Landlords taking advantage of tenants (heating, bedbugs, etc.)
- Neighborhood-wide website—one-stop shopping
- Student residences—frat houses
- How to turn students into assets—engage them in the community, start with housing quality
- Annual festivals—shut-down street:
  - Brian Honan Road Race
  - Boston Shines
  - \$ from Main Streets

#### (1) Community center/youth programs \*

- We need one
- Need after-school care
- Health care \$
  - Joseph Smith H.C.
- Affordable recreation space
- Problems with activities for young people—more/better after-school programs
- Public Art A/B doesn't have much
- Sex offender registry—police response

---

### MAIN STREETS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

---

- Promote local businesses
  - Need a bookstore
  - More city support to Brighton Main Streets program
    - Too much time spent raising money
    - Expand/new Chestnut Hill Ave/Main Streets Cleveland Circle
- Cleveland Circle
  - City help get a good business use (bookstore, café...not a bar)
- Small businesses closing
  - Union Square (high rents)
- Economic bleed to Cambridge/Somerville/malls
- Coolidge Corner model—replicate
  - Density of businesses
  - Mix of businesses
  - T access
  - Expand parking—enforcement of double parking and bus stops

---

<sup>1</sup> Group 4: David, Eva, Angela, Mike, Juan, Brandon, and Wilma

\* – 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

**ALLSTON-BRIGHTON  
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING INITIATIVE (ABNPI)**



- Allston Village
  - Too many restaurants

**(1) Better mix of stores \***

- City small business start-up assistance
  - City not responsive
- More municipal parking lots
  - Mandate developers to create them
- Brighton Mills/Western Ave
  - Could have commercial district, but too much vacant
- Mixed-use development
  - Stacked business/residential
  - Stacked businesses
- Crime
  - High burglary rate
  - Hate crimes—immigrants
  - Pedestrian safety...transportation
    - Cleveland Circle, etc.
    - Packard's Corner
    - Union Square
    - Wash/Foster
  - Graffiti/vandalism
- Trash on streets, especially business areas
- Street cleaning—expand?
- Transfer budget
  - Snow ↔ Trash, Street Cleaning
- Beautifying store facades
- Need for clothing, etc. substitute for Kmart
  - CompUSA → ??
  - Find the right mix
  - WGBH → restaurants?

**(2) Streetscape \***

- Walking more enjoyable
- Benches
- Wide pedestrian sidewalks
- Signage
- Art
- Store clustering—similar businesses next door
- Allston Village parking
- Residential parking used by commuters

---

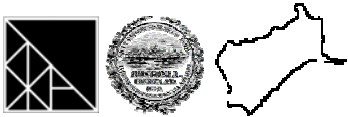
**HOUSING**

---

- Owner occupancy
- Neighborhood trending down
- BC and Harvard impacting
- Resist increasing housing density
- Higher tax rates
- Noise-making from students—enforcement
  - Driving families out
  - City needs to support quality of life issues
  - Perception driving buyers away

**(1) City insists on on-campus undergraduate dorms (100%) \***

- UG on-campus would make housing more affordable



(2) Police and ISD enforcement \*

- Adhere to zoning
- Landlords exploiting students
  - Rates up
  - Security deposits
- ABCDC bought properties, financing requires no renting to students
  - Replicate
- More affordable housing built by non-profits
  - Emphasize other neighborhoods?
- Protect 1-F and 2-F houses
- Strive for good income mix among residents
- After-school programs to attract families
- Return of rent control????
- Enforcement ISD of rental properties when turn-over
  - City accountability metrics
- Increase residential exemption

---

**OPEN SPACE, PUBLIC REALM & STREETScape**

---

(3) Need for dog recreation space(s)

- More city support
- Increase in dog ownership
- Lack of public knowledge about open space
  - Signage
  - Private space access defined
  - Green connections
  - Large fraction private?

(4) Green streets/corridors

- Comm. Ave.
- More City emphasis on Green Streets
- City responsive, not proactive
  - Resident watering program, not City
- NB: bicycle use integrated
- Connections to Charles River
  - Parsons
  - Brook Street—DCR needs to improve
- Capital \$ to plant street trees
- Playing fields over-used
  - Improve Daly Field (DCR)
  - Rogers tennis courts usage in summer
  - Permitting for rec. uses
    - Electronic posting on permitting
- Permits for cutting big trees
- Introduction of flowering species in the parks

(2) More \$ to Boston Parks/DCR for capital investments \*

(1) Better ways to protect (private) open space in A-B \*