



Copley Place Expansion Project
CAC Meeting #10
Wednesday, December 3, 2008
Location: Copley Place – 4th Floor Office Level

CAC Attendees:

David Berarducci, Resident of the South End
John Connolly, Back Bay Association
Anthony Gordon, Ellis South End Neighborhood Association
Gene Kelly, Resident of the Back Bay
Meg Mainzer-Cohen, Back Bay Association
Ted Pietras, South End Business Alliance
Mark L. Schmid, Trinity Church
Jolinda Taylor, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB)
Judith Wright, Pilot Block Neighborhood Association

Ex-Officio Attendees:

Massachusetts State Representative Marty Walz
Elizabeth Corcoran-Hunt, Office of Representative Byron Rushing

City of Boston Attendees:

Heather Campisano, BRA
David Carlson, BRA
Karin Goodfellow, Boston Arts Commission
John Fitzgerald, BRA
Mary Knasas, BRA
Lauren Shurtleff, BRA

Simon Property Group Attendees:

Kristi Dowd, R.F. Walsh Project Management
Bill Kenney, Simon Property Group
Dave Newman, The Strategy Group
Susan Tracy, The Strategy Group

Members of the Public:

George Cramer, Cramer's Hair Salon
Ann Gleason, NABB
Ann Hershfang, WalkBoston
Lynne Kortenhaus, Kortenhaus Communications, Inc.
Martin Leinhand, NABB
Tom Palmer, Kortenhaus Communications, Inc.
Sheila Pelosi, Resident of Tent City
Barry Tepper, Parkland Management Advisory Committee
Jackie Yessian, NABB

Meeting Summary

On Wednesday, December 3, 2008, the tenth working session of the Copley Place Expansion Project Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was called to order at approximately 8:25 a.m. at Copley Place by Judith Wright, Pilot Block Neighborhood Association and CAC Chair.

The CAC then began an open discussion on public art associated with the project, the only item on today's agenda. The following questions and comments were raised by the CAC during the discussion:

- Jolinda Taylor, NABB, indicated that she had looked into the provenance of the horses installed at the entrance to Neiman Marcus at the corner of Dartmouth and Stuart Streets. The horses were commissioned from the artist Deborah Butterfield in order to reflect Neiman Marcus' Texas heritage. The horses were initially owned by Urban Investment Development Corporation, the original owner of Copley Place, but are now owned by Simon Property Group.
- Anthony Gordon, Ellis South End Neighborhood Association, asked if the developer is obligated to include public art in the project. Judith Wright responded that based on comments from both the CAC and the public, it appears that there is a need for public art in the project. Susan Tracy, The Strategy Group, added that she would follow-up to see if Simon Property Group would be interested in financing a public art installation on the project.
- In response to questions from Gene Kelly, Resident of the Back Bay, Karin Goodfellow, Boston Arts Commission, indicated that the City has an artist selection process for public property. She added that many development projects voluntarily go before the Arts Commission for advisory meetings, even though they are not required to do so.
- Meg Mainzer-Cohen, Back Bay Association, suggested that if a suitable location were identified in Copley Place, a local museum could use the space for rotating installations.
- David Berarducci, Resident of the South End, noted that the Southwest Corridor Park is a good location to install something monumental or celebratory.
- Judith Wright that the project's Winter Garden would also serve as a good space for some sort of display.
- Meg Mainzer-Cohen emphasized that Boston is generally lacking in public art, and so this project represents a good opportunity to add to the City's public art inventory.
- Gene Kelly stated that it would be good for the Neiman Marcus horses to be included somewhere in the project, but added that more art should be incorporated elsewhere on the site.
- In response to Gene Kelly's comment, David Berarducci countered with his desire that the Neiman Marcus horses *not* be relocated, since they have a negative connotation and are not celebratory in nature. In addition, they have nothing to do with Boston and represent Neiman Marcus' Texas heritage.
- In response to a question from Gene Kelly, Heather Campisano, BRA, responded that Karin Goodfellow submitted comments on the Project Notification Form (PNF) on behalf of the Arts Commission, and these can be found in the Scoping Determination.
- Jolinda Taylor suggested that art elements could be used for wayfinding around the site.
- Massachusetts State Representative Marty Walz suggested that Neiman Marcus might be interested in installing the horses in another one of their stores. Jolinda Taylor noted that they might even want to install them somewhere inside of their expanded store at Copley Place. Bill Kenney, Simon Property Group, added that the proponent is interested in hearing if anyone has any suggestions for another location in Boston that they could be moved to,

and noted that the proponent has yet to decide either way. Ted Pietras, South End Business Alliance, suggested they be moved to the other side of the building, along the Southwest Corridor Park. Karin Goodfellow added that the City would accept them and find another location for them if needed.

- John Connolly, Back Bay Association, emphasized that the CAC should consider something at the entrance to the Southwest Corridor Park. He also added that it would be good to see some contemporary art included within the site.
- David Berarducci suggested that some sort of digital installation could also work.
- Jolinda Taylor asked about advertising on the exterior of the building. Gene Kelly indicated that any advertising would be governed by the City's signage ordinances.
- John Connolly suggested that the CAC ask the proponent's architects if they have any recommendations for appropriate locations for public art both inside and outside of the building.
- Elizabeth Corcoran-Hunt, Office of Representative Byron Rushing, stated that Representative Rushing would like to see a list of what is considered public art within the Copley Place site currently.

Questions and comments raised by the public included:

- Ann Hershfang, WalkBoston, suggested that the CAC set some parameters for the type of art they would like to see on the site. She added that Boston already has a lot of representational art, and that it would be great to see something contemporary within the site. She also suggested that the Neiman Marcus horses could be moved to a location in Franklin Park, or somewhere where a stable used to be located. She also noted that it could be very nice to see something installed within the bollards at the Southwest Corridor Park.

The CAC then moved on to a discussion of New Business items:

- Jolinda Taylor indicated that she had met with her group, NABB, and they are curious as to why the site is not included within the BRA's Civic Vision for Turnpike Air Rights. John Connolly responded that this site was not included since it was not a vacant parcel at the time of the study (2000).
- Jolinda Taylor asked about the design guidelines from the original Citizens' Review Committee from the original project. Meg Mainzer-Cohen indicated that this CAC has been convened in response to the current proposal, and added that it is unlikely that the original guidelines will apply to this project.

Judith Wright indicated that the proponent plans to give the CAC a preview of the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) prior to its filing, noting that this will likely come at the end of January. After a discussion, the CAC agreed to take a break from meeting every two weeks until that point. They will then continue to meet regularly and discuss a number of remaining issues, including the building's height, affordable housing, etc. Since the DPIR has a 60-75 day comment period, the CAC will have more than ample time to address these remaining topics.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m.