



**Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative
Corridor Advisory Group Meeting #1
Thursday, June 14, 2012
Location: Boston Redevelopment Authority**

CAG Attendees:

John Marston, John Sullivan, Paul Filtzer, Ethel "Peggy" Santos, Steve Roller, Karleen Porcena, Marcus Owens, Marzuq Muhammad, Glenn Knowles, Jeffrey Gonyeau, Milly Arbaje-Thomas, Daryl Wright, Neil McCullagh, Christian Williams, Paul Malkemes, Pete Stidman, Thomas Nally, Paul McManus, Matthew Thall, Azzie Young, Michelle Waldon, Marcia Thornhill, and Marvin Martin

CAG Members Not in Attendance:

Victor Karen and Dorthea Hass

Meeting Summary

On Thursday June 14, 2012, the Corridor-wide Advisory Group (CAG) for the Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative had its first meeting in the BRA Board Room in Boston City Hall. Inés Palmarin (BRA) called the meeting to order at approximately 8:10 A.M.

Inés and Jeremy Rosenberger (BRA) then proceeded by introducing themselves, asking city staff to introduce themselves, and briefly describing the project. The CAG then each introduced themselves, speaking briefly about the organizations and neighborhoods they represent and describing what they hope the Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative will achieve. Many cited its potential for economic development along the corridor and the need for affordable housing and the inclusion of residents' voices in the process.

Inés discussed the expectations for the advisory group. A major role for each member will be to educate the rest of the group about their own experience and work in the neighborhoods along the corridor. Although the expansion of the Fairmount Indigo Line is a long-term project, the group will seek to show short-term results to the neighborhoods and organizations they represent. Because many people have not seen the entire rail corridor, Inés hopes to organize a weekend trolley or bus tour for the advisory group. The group will meet once per month in meetings open to the public, with Inés and Jeremy the CAG's primary contacts at the BRA for the project. Inés and Jeremy will staff the CAG and asked that the group's communications regarding the initiative, including contact with members of the press, go through them. Members of the group can find reports and studies related to the project and the corridor online through the BRA website. Inés and Jeremy also recommended that the group consider selecting a chairperson to work with staff to set agendas and manage the group. Discussing the materials in the group members' binders, Inés also asked the group to review potential logos the BRA had designed for the initiative. She also pointed out in the binder the CAG will find a draft scope of work for the planning initiative. Inés asked the group to provide any comments or feedback on the scope of work by 5pm, Friday, June 22nd.

Jeremy then moved to the topic of future CAG meetings. Discussing the opportunities offered by monthly meetings, he suggested that the group should hold its future meetings at different locations along the Fairmount corridor, most likely during the evening. Marcus Owens suggested that the group should hold meetings when community members are less likely to be working. In addition to holding meetings at times convenient to the public, Jeremy recommended that the group use meetings as a way to get residents to visit other neighborhoods along the corridor, suggesting the Mattapan Public Library as one potential location.

After the meeting logistics discussion, Jeremy presented a slideshow discussing the advisory group's goals/objectives and community process. The group will continue to meet during July and August, holding ten meetings before June 2013 with a goal of generating a draft plan by that time. Additionally, the BRA hopes to hold three community meetings, including a community charrette in September. John Marston recommended that the group make sure to meet in each neighborhood along the corridor. To get community members using the existing rail line, Matthew Thall suggested holding meetings near existing stations, although he pointed out the difficulty posed by the line's schedule. In response to Dr. Azzie Young's question about the timeline for the design process of the Blue Hills station, Joe Cosgrove from the MBTA reported that the station is at 60% design and that the MBTA will know more the next one to two months.

Following the presentation on goals and objectives, Jeremy introduced the consultant team, Steve Cecil and Josh Fiala from the Cecil Group. Steve and Josh shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the scope of their work and the consultants with whom they will work on economic development, branding, neighborhood sustainability, real estate planning, civil engineering, and urban design.

Kairos Shen (BRA) thanked the advisory group for their time and contribution to what will likely be the BRA's biggest planning project of the next two years. He asked the group not to hold back in asking difficult questions and pressing the BRA.

Michelle Waldon informed the group that Uphams Corner Main Streets would be holding a fundraiser that night at the Strand Theater and encouraged members to attend.

Matthew Thall suggested starting a listserv for the group so that the group could easily communicate amongst themselves without needing to go through BRA staff. Jeremy said the staff will consider how best to facilitate that type of communication.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 AM.