

Forest Hills Improvement Initiative
First Community Meeting – October 23, 2006

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

The following notes were compiled during the large group summary discussion at the end of the community meeting:

Assets

- Large Green Spaces
- Good Stores
- MBTA
- Community Love for Forest Hills
- Existing Housing Stock
- Diverse Population
- Youth

Challenges

- High School Student
- Pedestrian Safety
- MBTA
- New Washington Street – no character, businesses or homes
- Existing Traffic
- Youth Needs
- Grated Businesses
- Homeless / Public Drinking / Drug use
- Concentration of Challenges in District
- Enforcement of laws
- Coordination of Traffic Lights

Vision Comments

- Safe / Clean / No Drugs
- Better Looking (no grates) Retail
- Better Retail – for local owners, Movie Theater, Pharmacy
- Food Store - locally owned
- Bike Link to South West Corridor
- More Green Space on Hyde Park Ave and Washington Street
- Extend Orange Line and More Commuter Rail Service
- Youth Accommodations (Elementary School, Senior Citizen / Recreation Center)
- Better Park Link to Roslindale
- Develop space under the Casey Overpass
- Pedestrian Solution to Traffic (Good Directional Signage)
- Commercial Office Space Development
- Low Density / Affordable Housing – including Artist and Senior Housing
- Prefer More Homeownership than Rental Housing
- Mixed Use Development – including multi-story

- Green Building Principals / TOD Principles
- Day Home for Homeless
- Public / Common Spaces – farmers market
- Later Business Hours
- More Landscaping and Better Open Space
- Signage Linking Assets
- Forest Hills Identity – “United Village”
- Assets Better Connected – walkovers
- Better / More Efficient Use of Space
- Structure Parking (preferred to surface lots) / No Visible Parking)
- Balanced Smart Growth with Scale That Fits
- Community Engagement in All Development Planning and Review (Get Rozzie Involved)
- Local Tourism Destination (Shuttle Connecting JP, Rozzie & Forest Hills)
- Connections to Arboretum, Franklin Park, and Forest Hills
- Making Forest Hills a *center* for the area
- Capitalize on “Green” as a place making identity: build on the abundance of parks and open space, and the name “Forest Hills”, to shape an identity that could serve as a catalyst for green development [green buildings] and perhaps even green commerce.

Synthesized Comments

- Connect Assets (Remove Obstacles)
 - Green Spaces
 - New Retail (Grocery Store)
 - Local Schools
 - Office Space (Live / Work Space)
 - Homes
- Community Center for Youth, Seniors and Homeless Too
- Signage & Branding
- Safer / Cleaner
- Better More Efficient Use of Spaces
- Better T Access
- Address Car Issues with Better Pedestrian and Bike Transportation (Improvements)
- History too
- Connections
- Sustainable Design – Green Building, TOD, Transit Improvement
- 21st Century Planning – smart growth, value of land
- Efficient Use of Space
- Community