

July 28, 2009: Hyde Park Advisory Group Meeting #3 Notes

At 6:36 Marie Mercurio (BRA) calls the meeting to order.

She reviews recent Advisory Group Work (AG), noting that they, the BRA and the consultant team hosted a community meeting a month and half ago (June 16, 2009). She states that notes capturing public input from that meeting have been compiled and distilled into a community vision. She would like to go over those notes and the vision with the AG. Following that discussion Ralph DeNisco (McMahon Associates) will give a presentation on transportation. Carole Schlessinger (CSS) will also review neighborhood demographics.

Carole (CSS) next distributes the paper copies of the demographics and land use summaries. She discusses the highlights of the demographics study with the AG, pointing out key demographic statistics for Hyde Park and comparing data at the neighborhood level with corresponding data at the city and state levels. An AG member asked why Hyde Park's population is shrinking more than other parts of Boston. Carole (CSS) explained that density is increasing more in Boston's neighborhoods that closer to and part of downtown.

Ralph (McMahon Associates) next gives a presentation on transportation in Hyde Park.

Topics covered in his presentation include:

- Amount of public parking spaces compared to other neighborhoods.
- Truck traffic on the Truman and Neponset Parkways.
- A majority (83%) of trip are by automobile.
- Transportation volumes on major roads.
- Goals and Objectives

AG and audience members then discussed transportation issues with Ralph (McMahon Associates):

- AG members' concerns of possible closure of MBTA commuter rail stations
- A public meeting occurred about 12 years ago to change/re-look at the commuter rail zones, and nothing came out of it.
- Possibility of undertaking a comparison of how many public parking spaces Hyde Park has vs. another community (Roslindale, for example?)
- The need for more truck restrictions for trucks going to Readville (members note the pollution is terrible behind the Stop n Shop distribution center).
- The need MBTA coordination with these planning/rezoning efforts
- AG members suspect that many users of the Readville Station are from the suburbs, while the Hyde Park and Fairmount stations are primarily used by local residents.
- Public Works update on local improvements?
- Request for an update on Readville Yards redevelopment?
- An AG member requested more detailed traffic counts.
- A shuttle to Legacy Place in Dedham is being discussed.
- How to incentivize a certain type of use (i.e., biotech) to come into Hyde Park?
- Can we address cell phone towers in the goals?
- Residential parking regulations for Hyde Park.
- Members expressed concern that residential parking restrictions around commuter rail stations could negatively impact retail districts.
- AG would like to hear about the realities of doing good projects (Mike Tallon: Townsend's/TC's)
- Look at existing ZBA process and decipher how to improve it (Roslindale did this)
- Should the goals include something about snow removal?
- How can we incorporate green development into the zoning for small projects (<50,000 s.f.)?
- Add "extended families" in the artist live/work goals regarding housing.

Carole (CSS) next reviews the vision and goals that were synthesis from the input of members of the public at the last community meeting. [These documents will be posted online.]
The meeting concludes at 8:25 PM.