

Jamaica Plain Centre/South Street Community Meeting #1

Curley School Auditorium and Classrooms
Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 6:00-8:30PM

Breakout Meeting Notes – Group #1 (first classroom):

Streetscape/Quality of Life

- Jamaica Plain does not have a cookie cutter streetscape – it is unique, and doesn't necessarily want every block to look the same
- Leverage and embrace the branding of the "Latin Quarter"
- More density at Centre/South Street core – this area can handle more density
- More logical placement of street furniture, specifically benches
- Examine low-impact development tools such as permeable pavement, solar lighting, etc. Portland, OR is a great example
- Discourage community from putting household and business trash in public trashcans
- Protect existing trees and add new trees – keep trees during construction of new projects
- Tree grates require more maintenance – sidewalks with cobblestone reinforcement are more effective for preserving sidewalk from bulging and also less-maintenance

Neighborhood Businesses

- Assistance to small business in terms of maintenance and money
- Plan meetings so business owners can attend/better communication

Transportation

- The sidewalk between Jackson Square to Walden Street needs widening and the street can accommodate extra width. This area feels unsafe – short-term improvements are also needed
- Evaluate how we manage and prioritize cars, pedestrians, and non-vehicles
- There should be bus stops along the 39 route between Jackson Square and Forest Hills
- Narrow sidewalks can be unsafe and exist along corridor
- Need parking turnover – and more education on the impacts of parking

Breakout Meeting Notes – Group #2 (second classroom):

TRANSPORTATION:

- Congestion - Increase in traffic - as well as more aggressive driver's impact pedestrian safety.
- There is processing traffic at the expense of pedestrians
- There is a lack of enforcement at pedestrian crossing
- Improve pavement – (Mor)? Kings
- Neck downs can have negative impacts on traffic flow-
 - i.e. 2x parking @ neck downs create problems.
- Need to build on past work and addresses bus stops and consolidate, operational space accommodations
- Need to accommodate bicycle

Hot spots

- JP Plaza – The Dunkin Donuts
- Paul lore?/Centre intersection
- Conflict with parking in bus stop
- Green St. & Centre St. - left from Green st. to Centre st.
- Hyde Square & Rotary:
 - Needs “rotary guidance signal”
 - Excess pavement convert to pedestrian space
 - Parking in rotary is a problem

NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES:

- Need to continue to work to eliminate grates
- Encourage business owners to provide jobs to local youths
- Graffiti:
 - Retaining walls is prime targets
 - Particularly on grates
- Loading zone enforcement and management
- Flexibility in design approach
- Cleanliness in shop owner specific
- Limit parking to 2 hours
- Enforcement is lacking
- More parking and it's demands will create more traffic flow conflicts
- Commuters parking on residential streets
- Meter parking should be looked at - and have easier enforcement – multi-space meters to reduce clutter
- Complete evaluation of current parking regulations is needed- include Harris Street.
- Need to eliminate old T trolley poles
- Recycle bins – closed style

- Evaluate lighting that accommodates pedestrians – unified design
- More Trees
- Sensibility to conflicting colors of facades
- Look for opportunities to tell the (deep)? history of Centre Street – Engage landmarks and art commission.

Breakout Meeting Notes – Group #3 (Third classroom):

Big Ideas: listen and hear from everyone

- Centre Street defined as JP's Main Street with different 'neighborhoods'
- JP is diverse, funky, has an artistic scene
- Uniform distribution of resources, keep the uniqueness
- Utilize public monies wisely
- JP as a sense of Place, be a model
- Sustainability
- People vs. Cars
- MIT Study of Hyde Jackson – look at existing studies, don't recreate the wheel
- Uniformity must include accessibility
- Awareness of Other Large Projects
- Eco/Environmental Justice

Transportation Hot Spots:

- 41 Bus, Jackson Square to South Huntington
- Monument
- Boylston/Centre/South Huntington Ave: Alchemist Corner

How to balance needs:

- Cut Through Traffic
- Bicycling – role of the bike lane and use of side walk
- Balance cars, walkers, and riders, while being efficient
- Sidewalk, ideas from across the country, Denver as an example
- Good Public Transit

- Standing measures, principles, and larger 21st century issues
- Big project impact
- Grates – look at the buildings, signage