

Community Development Workshop: Neighborhood Experience Summary

June 19, 2017

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss amenities as they relate to neighborhood experience within the PLAN: Dudley Square Study Area. Information and discussion materials from this workshop can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>.

OPEN HOUSE AND NETWORKING

Prior to the start of the workshop, staff from the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) and the City of Boston spoke with workshop participants. Several informational boards summarizing findings and community input from previous workshops and other public meetings were displayed, as well as boards highlighting development parcel information. Workshop participants were provided with handouts summarizing data and analysis conducted for the Study Area. The handouts are included at the end of this summary.

DISCUSSION & PRIORITIZATION OF AMMENITIES

Workshop participants gathered into small groups at tables facilitated by BPDA staff. The activity focused on neighborhood experiences beyond housing and jobs and asked each participant to list 10 activities they engage in when they are not at home or at work. The frequency of the activity was less important, as participants were encouraged to consider both typical weekday and weekend routines as well as special events.

Workshop participants and facilitators then worked together to categorize the activities by whether they were “always,” “sometimes,” or “never” conducted in the Study Area. Each participant placed their activity into one of these categories and described the activity in greater detail. Activities which were recorded as “always” conducted in the Study Area were then removed and the group was asked to recast the list of activities from the “sometimes” and “never” categories while thinking about their preference for the future.

Images of the activity are included at the end of this summary.

REPORT BACK

Following the exercise, a participant from each group reported to the entire workshop about their group’s priorities for amenities. Each group’s response was recorded by BPDA staff and is included at the end of this summary.

Both workshop groups were largely in agreement on several topics. Both groups identified a need for activities which would activate the Study Area past 5:00 and prioritized the creation of both passive and active recreational opportunities. Much of the discussion

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around retail amenities focused on neighborhood services including dry cleaning, wellness facilities and grocery stores. It is important to note that regarding the grocery store in particular, there was concern for complementary facilities which would not compete with Tropical Foods, which is perceived as filling specific grocery needs.

NEXT STEPS

PLAN: Dudley Square workshops are tentatively scheduled to resume in September. More details about those workshops will be coming soon. We look forward to having you join us!

ABOUT PLAN: DUDLEY SQUARE

PLAN: Dudley Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Dudley Square and Roxbury. The goals of this study are to provide an inclusive community engagement process, create an updated vision with the community, and establish an implementation plan that will lead to the issuance of Requests for Proposals ("RFPs") for publicly-owned and vacant privately-owned parcels in Dudley Square.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project website at: <http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>

For any questions, comments or to join our mailing list, please contact:

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