



Meeting Notes
February 12, 2008
6:00pm-7:45 PM
Urban League
88 Warren Street

RSMPOC Members Present: Darnell Williams, Dorothea Jones, Donovan Walker, Dan Richardson, John Barros, Marilyn Lynch, Charlotte Nelson, Reggie Jackson, Beverly Adams, Elected Officials: Councilor Chuck Turner, Rep. St Fleur's Office Diane Wignall.

PLEASE NOTE: Notes are from 6:45 PM on.

Traffic Model Presentation

Meeting began with a presentation on the Roxbury Traffic Model by Mike Hall from Tetra Tech Rizzo.

Darnell Williams (OC) asked about how the development scenarios tested by the model would be determined. Mike (TTR) stated that he would work with the BRA to determine them.

Darnell (OC) suggested that the OC give input to the BRA by April/May.

Mike (OC) stated that the goal was to get it right and the ball was now in the OC's court.

John Dalzell (BRA) responded that one high build and one low build development scenarios would be tested. Mike (TTR) added that all planned development would be included, but two future builds would be tested. The model will also be linked to the Kenmore/Fenway/LMA models.

Audience Member John Spears asked about locations.

Mike (TTR) replied that certain areas had been displayed previously that were high traffic. The study can also ID high pedestrian traffic areas.

Audience Member Bruce Bickerstaff asked about the Islamic Center.

Mike (TTR) replied that it was included, but the study has focused on an AM peak and a PM peak. It is a valid point, but you do not need a traffic model to create solutions for the center. He reiterated that school was in session when the counts were made (early June 2007).

Hugues Monestime (BRA) reminded everyone that the simulation was done without including any potential traffic mitigation.

Mike (TTR) stated that a number of factors were examined. It would be possible to look at mi-day and test it. This model gives the city a platform to do many things.

Donovan (OC) mentioned Columbus Center. He also felt that the traffic caused by Madison Park, the Timilty and the O'Bryant at seven and two, not to mention the buses involved.

Jonathan Greeley (BRA) detailed the nature of the connection to the Kenmore/LMA model.

Audience Member asked for pedestrian improvements at Roxbury Crossing, given that the students often stop traffic. What about an overpass?

Mike (TTR) indicated that they did the best they could looking at that issue. Resolution of this issue is probably more of a common sense exercise.

Darnell (OC) thanked Mike for his help and presentation. Mike (TTR) responded that he was glad to be at the meeting and this model will present some exciting possibilities for the community. Darnell (OC) indicated that this work really helps the OC.

Dan Richardson (OC) indicated that this will help with traffic discussions going forward.

Meeting Notes

The meeting minutes from January were approved unanimously.

Parcels 8, 9 and 10

John (BRA) felt that the 1/26 workshop was good, and asked for OC feedback.

Dan (OC) felt that he would have preferred more time in the breakout groups and the wrap-up.

Reggie Jackson (OC) asked that the groups be more separated next time.

Audience Member Bruce Bickerstaff suggested sending out summaries ahead of time to cut down on presentation time.

Darnell (OC) also mentioned that the BRA needs to update the status of older projects.

Audience Member (John Spears) spoke to the need to set a jobs target for the these parcels, for example 5,000 jobs.

John (BRA) felt that was certainly worth talking about.

John Barros (OC) stated that the RFPs have spoken to jobs goals for minorities and women. We should also be looking at service, green, and construction jobs. Then we can look at available training programs.

John (BRA) stated that the RFPs speak to jobs during the development process and John's point is permanent jobs.

Audience Member asks where the jobs will come from and where the training funding was.

Audience Member Bruce Bickerstaff (OC) asked about the Dudley Square projects.

John (BRA) distributed a draft package of notes from the 1/26 workshop. They include summaries and group notes.

Darnell (OC) asked about comments. John (BRA) asked for comments by 2/26 and indicated that the next workshop would be mid to late March.

Project Updates

Parcel P-3

Hugues (BRA) stated that the Elma Lewis team is still working on a number of things with the BRA's economic development staff. They have until June 2008 to demonstrate an ability to complete the project. At that point the BRA will need to determine whether to designate, de-designate, or extend the deadline.

Donovan (OC) stated that although this was a BRA decision, he hoped that the BRA would work with the community to make it.

Dan (OC) offered that the Jackson Square project had just received their third extension, so this is not unusual.

Darnell (OC) stated that it may be necessary if it is evident that they cannot complete the proposed project.

Hugues (BRA) stated that extensions are common.

John (OC) felt that this was something to look at and that this issue should be examined in future parcels.

Hugues (BRA) indicated that both the BRA and the developer had a number of tasks left to complete. The developers were asked to give an update and this may occur at a future meeting.

Bartlett Yard

John (BRA) indicated that on 1/16 the development team for Bartlett Place gave an update to city staff. Work on a schedule has begun.

Darnell (OC) asked about the new leadership at Nuestra given Evelyn Friedman's departure.

John (BRA) did not think it would be an issue given the impressive team involved.

Darnell (OC) asked about the issue of the MBTA language.

John (BRA) replied that this was not discussed at the meeting.

Councilor Turner (OC) felt that it might make sense for the OC to vote that the Chair send a letter to the MBTA to request a meeting. He suggested that such a letter be addressed to an EOT official and the MBTA General Manager.

Darnell (OC) asked about process.

John (BRA) replied that because this was an MBTA parcel, it differed from Parcel P-3.

Dudley Square

Hugues (BRA) stated that he had received edited language around the subcommittee. Additionally, the BRA has been working on a nomination list for the Dudley Vision Advisory Task Force. A list of names was submitted to the elected officials for their review and they made additions to the nomination list. The list is complete and we hope to finalize appointment in the next few weeks.

John (OC) spoke to the new language and incorporating all the Dudley Stuff, plus the new development site.

Councilor Turner (OC) wanted the work to the BPL incorporated as well.

Audience Member John Spears spoke about the Ferdinand site and the scale of the project. He asked for updates on this.

John (BRA) stated that the full scheme would need to be in place, but that any remediation would occur to the building before any demolition would take place.

Audience Member asked about the Ferdinand façade. He felt it was the OC's priority to maintain it.

Darnell (OC) responded that it would be. Also, any potential environmental risks would be relayed to the community.

Councilor Turner (OC) spoke to the issue of the demolition of the blue building. The historical preservation here is important. Where does this stand?

John (BRA) replied that these were interesting ideas and there has been extensive documentation of all work so far. Right now the city has prepped the building for remediation and then demo.

Councilor Turner (OC) wanted demolition issues looked at further.

Dan (OC) felt that since the building has been falling down for years, this conversation needed to start now.

Councilor Turner (OC) made a motion that the BRA convene a group to develop a strategy regarding the historical preservation of the Ferdinand site. This should include elected officials, merchant organizations and the OC. This motion passed unanimously.

John (BRA) added that the BRA could follow up on attendees.

Darnell (OC) asked for BRA help with the motion.

Dan (OC) made a point of information that the MBTA TRA played hardball with the developer and will not let them test the site without the purchase and sale agreement.

Meeting with BRA Director

Darnell (OC) spoke to the meeting with the new BRA Director, John Palmieri.. All OC names were submitted to re-appointment to the OC. The lease issue was discussed, as was the OC's frustration with some of the decision making process. He also was in favor of a historical document to be produced by the BRA.

Audience Member asked about the process to become an OC member.

Dan (OC) added that the Director promised to attend an OC meeting and walk the area. He reiterated the importance of Dudley Square. He also discussed the offer of technical assistance.

Charlotte Nelson (OC) suggested offering the Director some times and dates to get to the OC and for the tour.

Dan (OC) also suggested formally presenting lease terms to the Director and the BRA.

Councilor Turner (OC) stated that he would pull the subcommittee together to do this. He also thanked the BRA for their work on the new zoning amendment creating the 750 foot threshold for review.

Calendar

The BRA pledged to put together a calendar for the year with dates.

Meeting Adjourned

