



Meeting Notes
May 5, 2008
6:00pm-7:45 PM
Urban League
65 Warren Street

RSMPOC Members Present: Darnell Williams, Norman Stembridge, Michael Miles, Jorge Martinez, Charlotte Nelson, Donovan Walker, Dan Richardson, John Barros, Reggie Jackson, Beverly Adams, RNC: Julio Henriquez; Elected Officials: Councilor Chuck Turner; BRA: Hugues Monestime, Jonathan Greeley, Jeong Jun-Ju.

Darnell Williams (OC Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Parcels 8, 9 and 19

Hugues Monestime (BRA) presented information on the planning process and talked about the next workshop. The presentation from Workshop #2 has been placed on the BRA website, and Roxbury demographic information is also available. The next workshop is proposed for May 29th at Madison Park Village, from 6-8 PM.

Darnell (OC) asked the OC for input.

Julio Henriquez (RNC) felt that the room was too small.

Darnell (OC) agreed and asked the BRA to find a bigger space.

Donovan Walker (OC) made the point that there is a bigger room next door.

Hugues (BRA) stated that the BRA utilized similar outreach strategies as in previous meetings. He distributed a revised work plan to OC members. Central Boston Elder Services was not available.

Donovan (OC) felt that a larger room was better for the breakout groups. We should also limit the number of groups to allow for more discussion.

The OC examined and approved the April meeting notes. Marilyn Lynch and Charlotte Nelson were excused from tonight's meeting.

Darnell (OC) indicated that Barbara Barrow-Murray (OC) had requested a 1-year leave of absence from the OC for health reasons.

Michael Miles (OC) made motioned and Reggie Jackson (OC) seconded the motion in favor of allowing this. Norman wished her well and it was unanimously approved.

Design Competition

Hugues (BRA) spoke about the AIA sponsored competition for Dudley Square. The Dudley charette was well received. Thirty-five teams were involved with eleven final proposals submitted. An awards ceremony was held on May 10th and we encourage the community to attend. We also think that the contest has brought people into Dudley, which is positive. The winning designs will be displayed at the AIA competition.

Darnell (OC) asked Hugues to remind everyone the intent of the competition.

Hugues (BRA) indicated that is concerned the site of the existing B-2 Police Station in Dudley Square that would be moved to the Modern Electroplating site on Washington Street. With this move a 2-acre development parcel would be created. The jury was made up of Roxbury business and residents, as well as local architects.

Labor Negotiation Update

Kerrick Johnson introduced himself as part of the Roxbury Builder's Guild. There is a tremendous opportunity to coordinate with the trade unions during the development of these Roxbury parcels. I have completed a tremendous amount of work since my last presentation. Unions have resisted this work and blocked our hiring goals. The document I have distributed lays out our strategy. I have been holding preliminary meetings with various stakeholders.

Dan Richardson (OC) indicated the both he and Councilor Turner (OC) would be serving on the committee being set up by the Guild.

Donovan (OC) asked if Nuestra and Madison Park CDC would be involved.

Kerrick indicated that he would be reaching out to them, he had not spoken with specific CDCs yet.

Michael (OC) asked why they had not agreed to participate yet. It would seem to be a good group to get advice from.

Kerrick agreed and indicated that he was still doing outreach.

Norman (OC) indicated that document seemed to include all CDCs.

Darnell (OC) stated that the OC would need to appoint individuals, and that seemed to have already been done. His only question was whether this was the OCs role.

Kerrick asked if Dan and Councilor Turner would represent the OC.

Darnell (OC) felt that would be premature to make that decision tonight. We will put this topic on the agenda going forward.

Donovan (OC) added that he would need to speak to the CDCs. Darnell agreed.

Michael (OC) indicated that this was relevant to the OC's' work. There us an economic impact to Roxbury and the people who work on these projects.

Dan (OC) felt it was necessary to address this serious issue. We want OC support on this.

Darnell (OC) suggested getting back to the OC regarding CDCs.

Michael (OC) asked for a list of meeting attendees and agendas when possible.

Kerrick (OC) indicated he would have more info in June and that he would be holding a meeting in June. OC support is crucial.

Audience Member suggested including Orchard Gardens as well.

Community Input

Julio (RNC) wanted to discuss the community workshops, and felt that more discussion was needed. The second meeting did not have enough focus on the Roxbury economy, which is what we asked for. A presentation by Dr. Jennings would be more relevant. Additionally, a larger room is needed.

Dan (OC) indicated that he agreed with Julio. The presentation was not Roxbury specific. He thought that message was delivered loud and clear.

Reggie (OC) agreed with those comments and felt that more outreach was needed as well.

Donovan (OC) also felt it was worth looking into Saturday morning versus Thursday night.

Darnell (OC) felt that Roxbury was not an island economically. The information we received was relevant, especially the LMA and Waterfront stuff. We need to align Roxbury with the bigger economy.

Julio (RNC) felt that while the jobs information was good, some portions of the presentation did not match up.

Hugues (BRA) indicated that the BRA had received a number of comments. Lots of information was presented, including important findings on education and wages. A similar presentation was made for P-3.

Dan (OC) felt that no one felt it was bad, but that it could have been more relevant. We need direction from Roxbury, not the BRA.

Darnell (OC) wanted to look into Dr. Jennings for a Roxbury focused presentation.

Norman (OC) felt that both perspectives were necessary. The numbers are the same, but the perspectives are different.

Julio (RNC) stated that these parcels are not on the waterfront, they are in Roxbury. How are different jobs affecting our community? How do we get people into jobs?

Michael (OC) reminded everyone that the OC only had oversight over these parcels, not over education or the police, for example.

Julio (RNC) stated that at the P-3 update in April, they laid out their plans.

Jonathan Greeley (BRA) spoke that the intent of the presentation was to show how Roxbury could utilize these parcels to connect to the larger area economy. Through the RFP process, we have the ability to ask potential developers to address specific concerns and outline different strategies. Recognizing and taking advantage of larger opportunities can help leverage different community benefit.

Darnell (OC) felt that Parcels 8, 9 and 10 presented a good opportunity to achieve goals articulated by the OC. But, we are a part of a larger economy. A good example is P-3, where there are struggling to make their vision a reality.

Audience Member Joyce Stanley indicated that she agreed with Julio. There has been a lot of EZ work and we still have yet to see the jobs as promised. South Boston has seen some \$20/hour jobs as a result of the harbor. We can't just look at economic trends, but need to look at what our population needs. Julio said we need to help train kids and then connect to the broader economy.

Audience Member John Spears felt that job goals were needed. Then, what interventions are needed to require these jobs. Then we need to connect our population to these jobs. We need the BRA to be specific.

Audience Member Kerrick Johnson suggested a European apprenticeship model and to expand the training process.

Audience Member Inez Foster felt that Madison Park TVHS had resources and that they needed to connect to this process.

Darnell (OC) felt that this input would be used to work on different strategies. We have CORI residents and high-school dropouts, and we need to find ways to help serve them. This is where the rubber meets the road for the OC. It is not an easy task, but rather a complex one.

Dan (OC) stated that Madison Park TVHS has failed as an experiment and did not work as a school.

John Barros (OC) felt that these were complex issues. The OC plays a leadership role. We need to call out numbers in the RFP and the work continues during the PRC and Article 80 process. There are many roles to play and many seats at the table. The city

needs to bring resources to the table. There are too many gaps to be a successful work experience. We also need to convince people in Roxbury to tackle these issues.

Dan (OC) wanted to mention that Ines Soto Palmerin's husband has passed away. She had spent many years working with Roxbury and the OC.

Councilor Turner made a clarification to the April 7th minutes.

Bob Terrell (RNC) asked about creating additional capacity for the OC, to develop its own staff. This could be funded by the Roxbury Trust.

Dan (OC) indicated that OC was working on it.

Meeting Adjourned.