

**Harvard Allston Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 27, 2008
Honan-Allston Library
6:30 p.m.**

I. Attendance

Harvard Allston Task Force

Paul Berkeley
John Bruno
John Cusack
Rita DiGesse
Brian Gibbons
Bruce Houghton
Harry Mattison
Ray Mellone

Harvard University

Harris Band
Monika Bankowski
Joe Began
Will Donham
Chris Gordon
Caroline Hegarty
Kevin McCluskey
Joshua Poupore
Dan Rabinovitz
David Raszmann
Kathy Spiegelman
Dennis Swinford
Maile Takahashi

City of Boston

Gerald Autler, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Michael Glavin, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Mary Kanasas, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Linda Kowalcky, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Ted Read, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Kairos Shen, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Dana Whiteside, Boston Redevelopment Authority

Harvard Allston Task Force Chair Ray Mellone began the meeting at 6:30pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear comments from the Task Force and the Community members in response to the October 22 presentation by Harvard on its current thinking for its campus Master Plan.

Community comments:

- How are the Community Wide Planning efforts and Harvard's plan being integrated?
- Whose responsibility is it for both plans to be integrated?
- Address the issue of Charlesview
- How the roads are going to be structured in terms of parking, bus lanes, bike lanes? (North Harvard Street, Western Avenue, Everett Street)
- Want separate bicycle lines from street traffic and pedestrians
- Want Cambridge Street to be fixed ASAP
- Want input for bicycle organizations to help with decisions regarding bike lanes
- Asked BRA to present how the parallel processes of the Community Wide Planning and IMP meet
- What kind of housing proposed at Genzyme site? Number of units, tenants, height, material, etc.
- What type of housing proposed in the back of Holton Street? Types of housing, height, density, size, etc.
- Comment that there are no 3-4 story homes in the community
- Want to know the timing of the housing buildings
- Where do Stadium Way and Cattle Drive come to on Cambridge St?
- Two way or one way traffic on Stadium Way?
- Concern with traffic on Windom Street
- In the past community was against the new streets in the back of the neighborhood (e.g. Stadium Way)
- Are the houses proposed on Stadium Way closer than the existing wall?
- How will Stadium Way connect to Cambridge St.? Cambridge St. is gridlocked.
- Want to use Article 51 of Zoning as the framework for building in the neighborhood, to be consistent with existing neighborhood
- Feel like the community not working together with City & Harvard
- Anything discussed (at meeting) should be reflected in changes in the plan
- Want distance from centerline to centerline (Stadium Way to Windom Street)
- When the IMP will be filed?
- Concerned with traffic from Hopedale to Stadium Way. Does it go through?
- Does the BRA feel obligation to represent the community?
- What would be a better way to provide feedback to Harvard?
- What is the neighborhood recourse to fight for the neighborhood (referring to Charlesview)?
- Could houses behind Rena Street (on Oxford St) be relocated? The park behind Rena St. houses is gone.

- What kind of housing proposed on Oxford Street (Harvard affiliate, market rental, etc)?
- Partially depress parts of Storrow Drive to help with connection to the river/entrance & exit ramps possibly be submerged
- Boulevard over the rotary
- Feel like the plan ignores the river
- Walkable boulevard over areas of Soldiers Field Road that are already depressed (Western Avenue and North Harvard Street)
- Underpass on Everett Street instead of at Longfellow Path
- Feel the intersection at Western is dangerous as they are now
- Concern with proposed Honan-Allston Library parking lot to be moved to the side of the library at Eatonia
- Want good transition between the campus and neighborhood
- Transition between the part of the campus that will be developed and the part not being developed (West of Barry's Corner)
- What's the tenure of Harvard affiliate housing?
- Pedestrian crossing at the end of Longfellow Walk through the Soldiers Field Road was decided to be too dangerous (40 years ago) and it was eliminated
- Task Force to write a letter to the BRA and Harvard regarding concerns and suggestions to the plan
- Want to use the meeting on November 12th to discuss the plan
- Want to know what types of problems Harvard is trying to solve with the plan
- What problems need to be solved in the eyes of the community?
- Is there a constructive alternative to Charlesview?
- Want to look at the existing conditions, make sure the work is based on engineered possibilities
- Are there any other green spaces proposed in the Community Wide Planning proposal?
- Right step by getting the community to the river
- Harvard's first plan was focused on creating places on the river but there was no way to get to those places, current plan focuses on connections to the river but to green spaces proposed on the river
- Want details on connections to the river and how would they work
- Want more specifics and details regarding pedestrian safety issues
- River district: density, scale, buildings – feel that the guidelines need to be formulated
- Proposed focus groups on each subject to get feedback on issues from community

The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.