

**Harvard Allston Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 26th, 2008
Allston-Brighton Resource Center
6:30 p.m.**

I. Attendance

Harvard Allston Task Force

Paul Berkeley
John Bruno
John Cusack
Rita DiGesse
Millie Hollum McLaughlin
Bruce Houghton
Harry Mattison
Ray Mellone
Brent Whelan

Harvard University

Monika Bankowski
Mary-Helen Black
Will Donham
Kevin McCluskey
Dan Rabinovitz

City of Boston

Michael Glavin, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Linda Kowalcky, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Kairos Shen, Chief Planner, City of Boston
Carlos Montanez, Senior Planner, BRA (Allston/Brighton Community Planner)
Linda Kowalcky, Deputy Director, Economic Development & Mayor's Liaison to Higher Education, BRA
Paul Holloway, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

Harvard Allston Task Force Chair Ray Mellone began the meeting at 6:40pm.

John Cusack gave a brief update from the Construction Mitigation Sub-committee meeting.

Mary-Helen Black, Harvard University gave an update on Educational Portal. The Ed Portal is slated to open in the spring of 2008. There will be a mailing going out to the

residents in April regarding Summer Camps at the Harvard Athletic Department. She gave a brief update on leasing activity happening at various sites in Allston/Brighton:

- Espresso Express, a regional coffee and tea distributor, recently relocated to 415 Western Avenue from its previous location in Belmont. This company brings roughly 10 new jobs to the City of Boston.
- Mascoma, a start-up company which focuses on renewable energy technology, brought its Corporate Offices to 1380 Soldiers Field Road. This growing business initially brings about 50 new jobs to the City of Boston with the potential for expansion in the near future. Harvard will confirm the job opportunities and update the Task Force at the next meeting.
- Zegen, a financial services firm, has also recently signed a lease for 1380 Soldiers Field Road. It is expected that this company will bring an additional 35-40 new jobs to the area. Harvard again will confirm the job opportunities and update the Task Force at the next meeting.
- Several movie crews have been using space at 100 Holton Street, 1284 Soldiers Field Road and in the former K-mart and Frugal Fannies spaces to film and edit movies. Some of the movies have been recruiting local residents to serve as extras.
- Cambridge Biomedical Research Group (CBRG), a contract laboratory service is being relocated from 1256 Soldiers Field Road to space in 1320 Soldiers Field Road which will allow this thriving company to expand. This firm currently employs 16 people and has plans to add 2-3 new employees per year for the next five years.

Mary-Helen also added that Harvard hired a local leasing agent from Brookline to help with the leasing of CITGO Station.

Brent Whelan asked if the retail study includes Barry's Corner and if the local leasing agent is looking at the framework of the study to determine the possible tenants.

Kathy Spiegelman said that the idea is to lease the CITGO Station site quickly even if it means leasing it for the interim use.

John Bruno asked how long the leases are for.

Kathy Spiegelman said that the leases vary depending on the space and use.

John Bruno asked if the community can be notified of the new jobs offered by companies moving into the area.

Mary-Helen Black suggested on working through the Career Resource Center.

Kathy Spiegelman said that there will be a clarification in the future as to the number of new jobs that will be created.

Mary-Helen Black and Kevin McCluskey provided information on Athletics scholarships that will be offered to the community.

Briony Angus from Massachusetts Environmental Policy Agency (MEPA). She gave an overview of the CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) process that was established by the secretary for the review of the Allston Master Plan.

- MEPA has been to Task Force before to give an overview
- Harvard filed an expanded Environmental Application form for the 20-year Master Plan in August of 2007 and in response to that the secretary issued two certificates, one that outlines the scope for the Master Plan Environmental Impact Report and also certificate creating a special review procedure for the project (links on the handout)
- In October of 2007, MEPA has issued a final record of decision allowing the Science Project to proceed as Phase I in advance of Harvard completing the EIR on the Master Plan
- Special review procedure calls for the establishment of Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
- The Secretary proposed that the existing Task Force supplemental with 4 additional members appointed by the Secretary will serve the function of the CAC for Harvard's project
- Four additional members of the CAC are as follows:
 - Representative from the Charles River Watershed
 - Representative from Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
 - Rick Corsey, Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
 - Susan Glazier, City of Cambridge
- Participation of the Task Force members in the CAC is not required however any Task Force member who is interested in participating is welcome to participate
- The role of the CAC is to assist the Secretary in review of submissions from the proponent in response to the scoping certificate and other documents
- First CAC meeting will be an organizational meeting
- CAC is not involved in reviewing the aspect of the project that are strictly under the jurisdiction of the City of Boston or monitoring the Construction impacts
- For anything that Harvard files with MEPA, a draft has to be submitted at least 30 days before as a preview of the submission for the CAC to review
- Harvard is required to file interim portions of the Master Plan to be reviewed by CAC
- Regulations and a special review procedure outline the process of how the CAC comments to MEPA
- CAC meets as its own body, establishes its own schedule, has an internal process, elects its own chair and coordinates as appropriate, can create sub-committees if necessary
- Harvard is required to provide logistical and administrative support to the CAC
- CAC is required to meet at least 3 times a year

- The opponent will be providing the CAC with financial resources to assist the CAC in obtaining 3rd party peer review of technical submissions to MEPA related to transportation, energy and air quality; opponent will be providing \$300K to CAC
- The special review procedure also calls for creation of a sub committee to manage the administration of the 3rd party peer review contracts; the sub-committee is to be comprised of a MEPA staff person (director), the chair of the CAC, a representative from Harvard and a representative from the BRA
- Once Harvard has filed final document the work of the CAC will conclude; the CAC exists for the life of the MEPA review of the Master Plan project

Will Donham explained that the scope of the MEPA addresses broader issues. The type of impact analysis that is done for MEPA review is done at the higher level. Harvard expects the IMP filing and the filing of MEPA most likely will happen at the same time based on the same information.

Briony Angus answered questions from the Task Force members regarding the process.

Harris Band – Master Plan Briefing presentation (see attached):

Michael Glavin, BRA said that the scoping is a tool that BRA will use to collect the best ideas from this process and put it formally in front of Harvard to let Harvard know what they should be focusing on when developing the new Master Plan. Since it is a formal process, it was advertised through the Task Force Meetings in order to get the best ideas from the community during the course of next 30 days. He said that the key questions that the community should be thinking about are:

- information about the community, things that may be happening in the area that Harvard and BRA are not aware of;
- key questions the community would like to ask Harvard
- recommendations from the community

Michael Glavin said that this is a chance for the community to organize thoughts and communicate with BRA.

Ray Mellone asked the BRA to set up working sessions between BRA and the Task Force in order to brainstorm ideas and develop a plan.

Bruce Houghton said that the neighborhood would be excited if Harvard would include facilities such as day care center, athletic facilities such as gym, pool, etc. that would accommodate people from the neighborhood (not for free, but for the same fee offered to Harvard students or employees). Bruce Houghton said that the focus should be on how the campus would benefit the community. Harvard should be able to build the greatest campus in the world but at the same time the community should be able to benefit from the development.

Gerald Autler, BRA said that the Task Force needs to be focused and prioritize. There are two principle items over the next year that the Task Force should focus on is to help with the review of the Institutional Master Plan and help to develop the Master Plan for Community Benefits. He said that by April 25th, 2008, BRA will collect comments from the public. The comments, suggestions, recommendations should be sent directly to Gerald Autler at BRA.

Gerald Autler answered questions from the audience regarding the scoping process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.