

Harvard Allston Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 13, 2007
Allston-Brighton Resource Center
6:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Harvard Allston Task Force

Paul Berkeley
John Bruno
Cathi Campbell
John Cusack
Rita DiGesse
Brian Gibbons
Mike Hanlon
Bruce Houghton
Harry Mattison
Millie McLaughlin
Ray Mellone, Chair
Brent Whelan

Harvard University

Harris Band
Will Donham
Chris Gordon
Peggy Hayes
Allison Nichols
Kathy Spiegelman
Kevin McCluskey
Tracy Wall

City of Boston

Linda Kowalcky, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Mike Glavin, Boston Redevelopment Authority

BRA representative Linda Kowalcky asked the Task Force to come to order at 6:32 pm. Harvard Allston Task Force chair Ray Mellone opened the meeting and made several announcements, which were:

1. Tonight we will be discussing the proposals for the education community benefits.
2. 3 scheduled meetings: Aug 22, 27, Sept 10. Commissioner Tinlin of the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) will be here on 8/22.
3. We have to decide how we want to deal with infrastructure and historic resources in the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR).
4. September 10th will be the last of the DPIR discussions.

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5. The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office has an open meeting on August 23rd to discuss Harvard's Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the Science Complex at the Honan Library, and we hope to have a representative from the MEPA office at the August 27th Task Force meeting.

Linda gave a BRA brief update:

1. There were questions about Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) and what meetings they're having. The clarification is written on the agenda: August 28 is a tentative meeting of the design subcommittee. We're trying to get members from that design subcommittee over to the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) to look at a physical model of the Science Complex. It is set up in the GSD in an exhibit. We'll send an email once that particular meeting is confirmed.
2. If the design subcommittee makes a recommendation to the full BCDC, it will happen at the BCDC meeting on September 4th.

Q: Is the subcommittee meeting open to the public?

A: Linda - As far as I know, yes. They've asked the subcommittee members to take a field trip to Cambridge and view the exhibit there.

A: Kathy Spiegelman- we'll email Gerald Autler's distribution list once the meeting is decided upon.

Q: Harry Mattison- I thought we'd agreed at the meeting last week that we'd know tonight if there's a meeting on the 28th. I thought I'd understood from Kairos that 2 weeks was a reasonable time frame, and that he had promised that we would have enough time to get our schedules in order.

A: Linda - we pressed, and I don't have an answer for you, I'm sorry but there's nothing I can do about it. You know the day: if there's going to be a meeting, it's going to be on that day. Whether the meeting will happen in Cambridge, or City Hall, I don't know, but I hope to have an update for you by then. I can't give you any more information than that right now.

Q: Harry -what is a reasonable time frame to know when this will happen?

A: Mike Glavin - Linda's doing the best she can to update you, but we honestly don't know. We do know the date that the committee would be meeting, and we know the time, we just don't know the place. I'm hoping that we're not going to get past another 24 hours without an answer, and we're trying to have that answer by the end of the week.

Q: Harry - since we haven't seen the model, can you tell us when the display is?

A: Kathy - the exhibit will be open in September, but the model will be there at the end of August. I don't have the information with me right now, but I'm happy to share it with you when I get back to my office.

Linda explained that Kairos will be on vacation for the next couple weeks, but that he is penciled in for the September 10 Task Force meeting. The MEPA meeting is on August 23rd at the Honan Allston Library, and you're all welcome to attend. We're trying to get a representative from MEPA to come to the Task Force meetings, but we don't have anything concrete yet.

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Linda then explained the details of an amendment to the Institutional Master Plan (IMP). An amendment is essentially a change in zoning, and therefore it needs to go before the Boston Zoning Commission to be approved. The public notification period for decisions by this commission is 20 days, and it will be advertised ahead of time. When the BRA knows when this meeting will be, they'll let the community know.

Q: Brent - Does that amendment include only Science 1?

A: Kathy – we're asking that the BRA review only the part of the amendment that relates to the Science complex, not the proposed Harvard University Art Museums (HUAM) Allston Art Center.

Q: Brent – Is the IMP, which had a comment date that has long expired permanently tabled?

A: Linda – There will be a review process, it just hasn't begun. It was put on hold until the DPIR for the Allston Science Complex was reviewed and addressed.

Linda turned the floor over to Mike Glavin from the BRA. He made an announcement that 3 weeks ago, he was invited and agreed to come out to the neighborhood for a non-Task Force, informal meeting. It will be this Wednesday, August 15th at 4:00 p.m. at the Allston Brighton Career Resource Center, and anyone is welcome to come. This is nothing more than an informal conversation, and is not meant to counteract or intervene with this Task Force. He's extending the invitation beyond the original invitation to include anyone else who would like to chat and get to know each other.

Kevin McCluskey, Harvard University, provided an update from Harvard.

Regarding the Harvard-Brown football game scheduled for the night of September 21st, the date for the hearing before the License Commission is August 20th. He explained that last summer Jeremy Gibson from Harvard's Athletics Department attended a Task Force meeting and said that if there were any evening games, Harvard would have to go to the License Commission and give notice, so Kevin wanted to make sure to share the meeting date with everyone. They've been working with Harvard's police department, and the Boston Police Department (BPD), to make sure there is nothing that will adversely affect the neighborhood. The lacrosse games have gone very well, and they anticipate the same happening for football. If there had been a lapse in communication, it certainly wasn't intended.

Q: John Cusack – the reason we were concerned, is that I thought the answer at that meeting last summer as to whether there would be any night games was “no.” I think we should look to see if there is a way to open communications a little further between the Athletics Department and the Allston Development Group, because we don't deal with the Athletics Department.

A: Kevin – There were overlapping vacations in the past couple weeks, so I'm sorry about that. In terms of this game, we have talked about it not as a series, but as a singular, Ivy League game that would happen every year in the fall.

Q: Cathi Campbell - I would like to point out the marked difference between the lacrosse games and the football games. Professional teams and no tailgating versus undergraduate crowds doing a lot of drinking. If it's Harvard-Brown this year, it could be Harvard-Yale in the future. I see it as a different animal than the lacrosse games. I see it as an expansion of the

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impact that Harvard is going to have on our community. I think it would have been nice if the issues related to that were discussed with the community, rather than just an announcement about it. Now we don't have a chance to vet these issues amongst ourselves before going down there.

A: Kevin – I understand, but I think we can take care of the details dealing with this particular game. We know that the burden is on us to be able to deliver, and this is something we know we're going to be held to a high standard in accomplishing.

Q: Brent – The public announcement preceded your email to us by a few weeks, so we're obviously not the first to know. Even after we've had problems and made you aware of them, we're still seeing that there's mismanagement in communication

Q: John Bruno – At Boston College (BC), they go over the failures of a game plan immediately following that Saturday game. I wonder if that's something that Harvard may entertain – to go over a parking plan, security plan, etc.

A: Kevin – all these are valid points, and that's what we do with the BPD and our own police.

Q: John B– We want to know that when you come before the community, we know that 'no stone is left unturned.' And so we know that all measures have been taken already. We want to know that we're understanding everything and we're evaluating everything.

Q: Audience member Chip Alford – I agree with Brent – I was at the meeting last year about whether to install lights, and when we asked whether there would be any night games, we were told "absolutely not," and that the lights were for late afternoon games.

Also, BC is becoming the model for these kinds of games – every ticket has a specific parking space, and that there's no tailgating after 3:30 pm, at all.

A: John B – there are specific regulations for all games, not just the night games.

Kevin McCluskey noted that the meeting minutes from July 26, 2006 reflect that when asked about night games, Jeremy responded that if night games were going to be proposed, Harvard would have to go before the Licensing Commission and would notify the neighborhood.

Q: Harry – ultimately, you [Kevin] weren't the person who made the decision to play at night. We asked for that person to come and talk to us.

A: Kevin – I was the one who was handling this flow of information, and this will be a yearly thing.

Q: Harry – I think the better analogy for this situation is when Harvard rented out the stadium to a high school hockey tournament and it blocked North Harvard St. I think coming to us a week before the licensing hearing is not acceptable.

Ray stopped the discussion on the night game, and asked Kevin to proceed and get the situation resolved.

Harry made a motion to ask Harvard to reschedule the game to a Saturday. Ray would not allow that motion – he said it's up to Harvard to hold games whenever they want on their own property.

Kathy Spiegelman continued with more announcements and updates from Harvard:

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1. WGBH is holding an auction of the items inside the buildings at 109, 110, and 125 Western Ave on August 21 and 22.
2. Leasing announcement: Lions Gate Entertainment is filming a movie called “Bachelor 2.” They’re leasing 355 Western Ave. for offices, and 100 Holton Street for sets, so there will be some activity in the areas of those properties, until the end of September. Kate Hudson and Alec Baldwin are the stars. All filming activity and work will be indoors.
3. We’re trying to work with the city to repair sidewalks on Western Ave. and North Harvard Street as quickly as possible, but also make sure it’s done well and appropriately. We’ve got specs. and a contractor, and we’re meeting with the City this week, and expect it to be done in late summer or early fall.
4. Regarding the “unsightly” fence around Smith Field: we’re meeting with a contractor and hope to fix that as soon as possible.
5. We’re asking for feedback on the construction fence mock-up regarding the different possible heights of the fence. We’ve only gotten about 15 preferences expressed. Eventually we’ll bring all the opinions back to the Task Force and ask you to help us make a decision. Please give us feedback.

Q: Audience member Joyce Radnor– can we have differing heights for different locations?

A: Kathy – Yes.

Q: Joyce – is the vegetation going to be the same as those on the mockup?

A: Kathy – Two evergreens closest to the mock-up fence site are too short. It’s a construction fence, so the trees can’t be bigger now because they have to be moved. At the construction site, the trees will be between the sidewalks and the fence.

Q: Are you redoing the streets as well as the sidewalks?

A: Kathy - The City has asked us to help them out with that, but our commitment so far is only the sidewalks.

Q: At 100 Holton Street, is that going to impact the voting location for the primaries?

A: Kathy - I don’t know, I’ll look into it. Hopefully the people in the Harvard Real Estate office would take care of that, but I don’t know and I’ll check that out.

Kathy then presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the education programs that Harvard is interested in developing to benefit the Allston-Brighton community. It is as follows:

Area Wide Benefits for the Community:

Harvard is committed to a program of community benefits that addresses the needs and desire or a continuing improvement in the quality of life for Allston residents.

Educational Achievement and Opportunities: (DPIR pp 1-10 through 1-12)

- **Education**
- **Public Realm** – Kairos was discussing this last week – streets and parks.
- **Economic Development** – nature of life science research that goes on in the building, some economic development is in the form of people who will take jobs in the complex, and some is found in the activities that go on in the career resources center.

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- **Housing** – targeted towards the work we’re doing with Charlesview – 213 new units for the current Charlesview residents and additional units. Those plans will probably come out in the fall.
- **Construction Mitigation**

Educational Achievement and Opportunities (*DPIR p 1-11*)

- *Residents and the Task Force have urged Harvard to shape a broad and deep relationship with the community through which residents of all ages would realize educational benefits.*
- **Boston Public Schools**
- **Science Focus**
- **Coordinator Position** - “Project manager for neighborhood planning” – created to coordinate between all the programs at Harvard and all the people in Allston-Brighton.
- **Survey** - we’ve gotten a lot of feedback in the past 18 months, but it would make sense to do a very comprehensive and in depth survey for those that don’t come to the meetings or go to the public schools, so we can address those needs as well.

Educational Achievement and Opportunities

Harvard Allston Education Portal

- **Proposed location – 175 North Harvard Street**
- **Math and Science education**

Harvard Allston Education Portal

- **Barry’s Corner location**
- **Open to all Allston school-age children**
- **After school tutoring in science and math** - Robert Lue (Dean of Harvard Summer School and life sciences professor) is very excited about training people to come here and tutor according to the curriculum of BPS [Boston Public Schools].
- **Lectures – children and adults** – so that adults can benefit from this area and these programs. Have science people at Harvard come out here and talk to the neighborhood about their work – help share the information about that science and what those scientists are doing.
- **Programs develop as needs are identified**

Kathy - The building at 175 North Harvard Street is scheduled to be torn down in our Master Plan, but this program is designed to be moved, and we’d be looking for a more permanent location as the program develops over time.

All of these things we assume will be of interest to the community. So we hope to create an advisory committee that would really want to spend time, and would focus on educational programs. The advisory committee would work with the Project Coordinator and with Harvard to set all these things up.

Educational Achievement and Opportunities:


Early Action Science Complex

- **Program Coordinator**

Advisory Committee

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|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify Needs• Science Education• Local Partners• Build on Known Successes |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Advise on program development* Evaluate* Report to the community |
|--|---|--|

BUILD on current educational programs for Allston-Brighton residents

- Allston-Brighton Community Scholars
 - *Scholarship programs specifically for A-B residents.*
- Honan Scholars Program
 - *For municipal employees.*
- Gardner School Enrichment Programs
 - *Harvard financial support to cover expenses (bus transportation costs, ticket fees, etc.) for Gardner School and (formerly) St. Anthony's School students to enjoy science and outdoor nature activities, cultural events and history and art museums throughout Boston.*
- Allston-Brighton English Language Scholarships
 - *Full tuition scholarships for one course per term for study at the Harvard Extension School and Harvard Summer School. Awarded on a first come, first served basis through the Honan-Allston Library.*
- Allston Summer School Program
 - *Designated for students living in A-B, this program offers free tuition for one 4-unit course at Harvard Summer School.*

Build on known successes - Existing Harvard science education programs

Sample of Outreach programs

- Outreach Fall Teacher's Program
- Spring Student Program
- Teacher's Program
- Brye Extension
- ExperiMentors
- Franklin I-O Summer Program
- Environmental Health Education Project
- Summer Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Program

Long-term Vision

- Set goals for model of Community/University education partnership.
- Make a significant impact for school-age population in BPS.
- Reflect positively on Harvard's commitment to Allston and Boston.
- Make 21st century science accessible to neighbors.
- Make Harvard undergraduates more aware of Allston community needs and opportunities for community service in the neighborhood.

Kathy - Community benefits aren't something we want to confine to the times when we're trying to expand in the neighborhood – we want to keep the relationship consistent with the people in the neighborhood at all times.

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Summary

- **Connect: Hire person to connect Allston neighbors to Harvard programs**
- **Assess: community needs through survey**
- **Establish: Harvard Allston Education Portal – open to all Allston students/residents**
- **Develop: new programs**
- **Complement: BPS programs**
- **Expand: on successful programs (150+)**
- **Evaluate: report back to community**

Q: John B – “open to all Allston school age children” – does that include Brighton as well? Where are the geographical boundaries?

A: Kevin – we envision that it will include the North Allston Neighborhood Strategic Framework for Planning (NANSFP) area – from Market Street to Windom Street, over to the Pike, over to Western Ave. I think it will be clear from the outreach that we do; for example, what the survey area is, and where the benefits will extend.

Q: John B. – maybe when we rename Rena Street extension, we can rename the area that will encompass everything you include.

Q: Harry – what about people that live elsewhere but go to school here?

A: Kevin – that is for the Task Force to consider. Right now we’re focused on residents, but that can be something to discuss and consider.

Q: Allston resident [unidentified]: If our kids have the same qualifications, please give them equal consideration for either admission or summer jobs. I also think that having an SAT tutoring program in the fall would be great.

A: Kathy - That is something we already do, and if that’s one of the things this community would like, we can do that. We can also have folks from the admissions offices come down and advise people what it takes to get into our school or any other school

Audience member Tom Lally: Thanks to Kathy and Harvard. There is nothing bad in this proposal. [Addressing the Task Force chair Ray Mellone:] A few of us have ideas of our own regarding education, transportation, etc. Is there anyway to have a subcommittee: a forum where I can get up and agree with people, as opposed to having to frame an argument against what Harvard would say? Can we have a “team back” before we come to these meetings?

The discussion then centered for a few minutes on what the name of the impacted area should be, to make sure that North Brighton was included as well as North Allston, and to make the boundaries are clear to everyone.

Bruce – I recommend that we form a subcommittee of this Task Force as the Advisory Committee that Harvard is looking for. I think that’s how it should be structured, and I think that’s how to carry it through so it wouldn’t be an advisory committee *only* to Harvard, but can connect the two groups.

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Q: Ray – Kathy, what did you have in mind?

A: Kathy – When we get the survey results, I'm assuming this Task Force will have a lot to deal with regarding the master plan. What we're looking for is rather a group that can focus solely on education. The members will be educators or those that know about education, and can advise us. Tonight, we were just focusing on education, and that's an important enough package of information that should be focused on individually.

Q: John C – importance of math tutoring, lecturing etc. – there will be those in the community that know the needed material, and where we need to go with the material. We should get those involved in education on a city wide basis involved in the process, particularly someone from the school system.

Q: Brent – Do you have a ballpark notion of how you're budgeting annually, for example, for the school year 07-08?

A: Kathy – I don't know what the level of demand is going to be, so I don't want to start from a target number, but the idea is to meet the need.

Q: Brent - Do you envision other staff provisions of educational professionals, and will they come on board in the 07-08 school year?

A: Kathy - At this point, we don't have a staffing proposal, and the role we're creating is trying to make sure to coordinate with those who do the teaching and outreach at the University. We don't want to duplicate what's going on if there are those who can produce the students and faculty to do the teaching; we don't want to create a parallel staff. They'll probably be undergraduate work study students, supervised by Rob Lue who is a professor in the Life Sciences and is the Dean of the Harvard Summer School.

Q: Brent - So he won't be devoted full time to this? I'm waiting to see what kind of resources you're going to put into the program beyond these students.

A: Kevin – many of the agencies we provide support to have professional coordinators. Even the students themselves have a high management capacity for programs like these. Is your question whether these will be managed properly to give the level of service we want to deliver?

Q: Brent – I'm really trying to measure the extent that this investment means in the eyes of the University. How can one measure the magnitude of this benefit?

Q: Cathi Campbell - We're talking about a variety of benefits to a variety of children. The quality of benefits that can be provided by undergraduates are going to cover a vast number of students in the area that needs it. That can be more important than being assured that there will be a staff member with a PhD next to their name. I don't think that it is a monetary measure.

Brent's questions were followed by extensive back-and-forth discussion about whether one should begin with a budget estimate to measure and enforce the University's commitment, or whether offering a number not based on any survey results would confine the program developers within that budget, and therefore sacrifice the goals of service.

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A: Kathy – this is the first building on an entire campus, and many of the things we're talking about are the frontloading of the master plan. What typically happens is this: when they draft the cooperation agreement, they measure certain commitments in dollar values, but in this case we don't have a single dollar figure. It's more about how much the City expects from Harvard in order to give permission to begin building this particular building, but not necessarily the whole master plan.

Q: Bruce – Remember, this is just the education program among all the community benefits that are planned/expected (e.g. public realm, construction mitigation, etc), and I don't think Harvard is ready to give us that kind of answer. But I think that this Task Force should keep discussing this, so we can have a more thorough vision of community benefits that we can ask Harvard for. Brent, what you're asking is for a number for this particular part of this particular program, and Harvard was probably thinking more broadly and doesn't know what it will cost.

A: Linda – our lawyers are sticklers for that kind of thing. They like to know what precisely is being promised. Roadway improvements and parks are often easy to estimate accurately. The more difficult thing comes when you're talking about providing a level of service that may not have a known cost attached to it. What we look for in lieu of an amount is what the level of service is that is being promised, then you can have a report back on whether that level of service is being met. So we're asking for what standards you want to be met – e.g. number of students that you want to reach, etc. We can set some targets.

Q: Bruce – how and when can we do this? Is it attached to the approval of the science building? What have you received so far to quantify this?

A: Linda – part of what we need to hear first is what kinds of things you as the community are looking for. I'm listening to you as to whether Harvard is on the right track and whether there are other things.

Ray – you want a budget for this kind of program, but we haven't conducted a survey yet to show what the demand is, we can't come up with an estimate that has any validity to it. Since we're talking about goals rather than budgets, I don't want to be limited by a finite number rather than whether the needs are met. This is about education, and education is about motivation, training, and opportunities. These are the issues that can be decided by the survey – e.g. how many kids need daycare.

Again, there was extensive discussion about whether having a budget number is a springboard or a ceiling for the benefits and programs offered.

John C – there are any number of ways that people could benefit from this. Linda, maybe you can look into this, perhaps we can leave the phraseology open intentionally. For example, 'as long as this community continues to produce children, they will continue to be tutored.' Then the benefits won't be calculated and then limited by a budget or stopped because the contract was "fulfilled."

Q: Kevin – so that's assessing outreach capacity?

A: John C – yes, but there are impacts you can make and also measure from very early on.

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Q: Linda – are you talking about measuring service delivery?

A: John C – measuring who knows about this program – e.g. Dean Lue and the students that they expect to volunteer. Is it feasible that it can be open to all?

Bruce – this is really about how you measure and use resources, either in terms of services or dollars and cents. I think that this survey should be a very thorough, complete, and professional *needs assessment* of educational opportunities and what the needs of the community are. The Harvard Graduate School of Education should be involved in the process and it should not be limited to children. We have high school kids, preschool kids, etc. There are high school kids who don't have help in filling out college applications, and don't know how to choose a college.

Brent – but that's a professional, expensive process that should be able to be budgeted for.

Ray – one of the things we should be looking at is not just the plan for the building, but the plan for implementing the needs survey. When it comes time to talk about the cooperation agreement, we'll be prepared to vote on it.

Audience member Tim McHale – Community package should include health, open space, environment. Construction mitigation isn't really a benefit, and should be stricken from the pie slice graphic. I was looking for more of something like "Harvard High School" and not just limited to the life sciences. We should be looking at health, self awareness, drug use, pregnancy, and suicide prevention, etc. I think there should be a building, because this is just a warehouse.

Tim then brought up the idea of a community fund. He said that the community needs gas in its tank; to go on good faith without a budget estimate or measure of services promised, is dangerous. A community fund has been done in the past.

Ray disagreed with Tim's statement, saying that in his experience community trust funds don't work. He added that the difference between what Harvard is proposing here and what it does in other communities is the IMP process, which sets up the framework for benefits.

Audience member - Executive Director of the West End House – there are needs assessments that have been done, and I would encourage anyone embarking on a needs assessment to contact those out there about assessments that have already been done. I would also like to ask anyone to look at what's out there and not "recreate the wheel" when they could fund an existing program like Jackson Mann that is already in place and helping the community, even if it's not North of The Pike.

She also warned that to actually measure the role that a program plays is not easy to quantify, because there are no real "units of service".

Audience member Liz Brown (Joseph Smith Community Health Center) – I would like to suggest that Harvard include other subjects other than education in the benefits program. Also, the health center is required to do a needs assessment every so often, and we're happy to share anything we've already done. I'd like to suggest adding Health Education to the definition of

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“educational community benefits.” For example, we get requests from the community all the time to deal with childhood obesity, diabetes, nutrition, etc.

Liz also asked if the English language education programs Kathy discussed are based on composition and grammar, or rather ESL programs. The representatives from Harvard explained that they were ESL programs, so Liz pointed out that, across the city, there’s a 2 year waiting list for any type of ESL program.

Q: Millie – Regarding the tutoring program, I think it’s important to have a way to measure the progress of the individual student that’s taking it. The students should be tested before and after they’ve gone through the program, so the tutors know what their needs are and what they need to build on. Is there a plan to have this kind of structured measurement so they can test their own progress?

A: Kathy – I don’t think there is. I think we should invite Rob Lue back again to find out what that would take and what we could do.

Q: Harry – What are your thoughts about things like how many kids can show up at any one time, student-teacher ratios, hours per week of the program, etc.

A: Chris Gordon – I don’t think we know. This is why we want the partnership to figure this thing out.

Q: Harry – I think we want some kind of promise as to the minimum of promised benefits. For example, if a 5 year old and a highschooler come in on the same day, what kind of services will be available?

A: Kevin – all the points that have been raised are very constructive, and they all speak to the specificity of program development. Those discussions can take place here, but they’re best held in a setting like the advisory committee and with people like the local non-profit professionals. Let’s be clear – at the beginning, you may end up with someone’s particular need not being addressed to the fullest extent possible. This is why we want to keep working with the program development. We want to get to the point where we can understand what the aspirations are, and then decide how we can get there.

Q: Harry – what is your idea as to when you can get these answers?

A: Chris Gordon – when we get the survey, and once we understand what the community wants, we can then work with the community and figure it out, and we’ll fund what we need to fund.

Q: Harry – what does it mean “we’ll fund what we need to fund”?

These questions were followed by some discussion about the specificity that is needed. Harry wants to see specifics and have Harvard make a promise, and Harvard can’t commit to specifics beyond the proposed program, because they don’t know what there is to fund since no needs assessment or survey has been done.

Linda provided some illustrations as to how Harvard could potentially make measurable commitments in these areas:

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1. promise to establish the advisory committee
2. promise to fund the survey
3. agree to fund the “top five big needs” that result from the needs assessment.

Deleted: fund

These are just examples, we can look at what Harvard has presented thus far and work on how to best measure Harvard’s contributions.

A: Chris Gordon – You have at least one thing on your side, because we’re going to be doing this for years as we continue to build, and you can hold us accountable.

Audience member - Member of Governing board of Gardner School – I hope that this building at 175 North Harvard Street won’t be a complete substitute for continuing the partnership with the Gardner school, and providing benefits in arts and professional development, etc.

A: Kevin – we’ll continue to build on our commitment to the Gardner School.

Audience member - Staff member from Jackson Mann Community Center – I would suggest that Harvard continue to build on and expand their already generous support of the existing programs, such as staff development they do for Jackson Mann, in the communities.

Audience member – is the building at 175 North Harvard Street already vacant? [No] As soon as it becomes so (even before the needs assessment), would Harvard be willing to put in an interim tutoring program? The teachers already know what the kids need, and what’s going to be on the MCAS. Can Harvard just open it up, and see how many kids show up as early as January? It would also help them measure the impact.

Audience member Neil Eustace – President of local Little League – thanked Harvard for their support and ongoing relationship with the Little League. I hope that when we put the agreement in ‘legalese,’ we remember this support and remember the Little League.

Bruce reiterated his support for a Community Fund and wants Ray to consider it for the future as a valid community benefit to the community that should be ongoing after the master plan has ended, so that the benefits don’t stop.

Audience Member – has there been any question about the acreage that Harvard has with the biotech industry down the street and the situation in the South End? Does Harvard have a plan to build anything else like this? Do you have a description of the building?

A: Ray – no, not that we’re aware of any plans beyond the science complex, and yes, we have a detailed description of the science complex here.

Liz Brown – agrees with the idea of a community trust. It could strike the balance of the two programs suggested today: that we want to work by goals, but we want concrete information. Having a community trust will allow you to do all those things and have a concrete measurement and budget for programs.

Audience member, Karen – agrees with Liz. We probably need a lot more discussion on community benefits, but the timetable is rapidly approaching.

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Ray – even when the DPIR is finalized, the discussions about the cooperation agreement will continue. There may be provisos and attachments to the actual science project anyway, and other side issues (e.g. public realm, height) so the deadline that we have doesn't necessarily commit us to anything other than does it meet the requirements of the DPIR. I don't see us being hemmed in by any timetable, even if the question of funding hasn't been quite decided by next week or the week after. Our first priority should be to look at the DPIR and see what we agree and don't agree on regarding background issues that haven't quite been resolved.

Before Ray closed the meeting, Rita DiGessee made an announcement that the applications for the scholarship for the extension school program are in the Honan library now, and are due August 29.

Task Force Chair Ray Mellone adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.