

Boston College Task Force
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, March 20, 2007
Brighton Marine Health Center
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

I. Attendance:

Boston College Task Force

Jean Woods, Chair
Janet Tambascio Fraher
John Bruno
Tim Burke
Tim Schofield
Anabela Gomes

Boston College

Matt Conway - Athletic Dept
Jack Dunn - Public Affairs
Henry Humphreys - Residential Life
John Kane - Athletic Dept
Tom Keady - Governmental & Community Affairs
Evie Kuran - Governmental & Community Affairs
Jeanne Levesque - Governmental & Community Affairs
Bill Mills - Governmental & Community Affairs
Mary Nardone - Capital Projects Mgmt

VHB

Felipe Schwarz
Rob Ricchi

Sasaki

Linda Eastley
Dan Kenney

Elected Officials

Representative Michael Moran
City Councilor Jerry McDermott
Representative Kevin Honan

City of Boston

Gerald Autler, Boston Redevelopment Authority
John FitzGerald, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Katelyn Sullivan, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Paul Holloway, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

The meeting started at 6:36 p.m.

Gerald Autler, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), introduced himself, John Fitzgerald who will be taking over many project management responsibilities and Katelyn Sullivan who will be taking the meeting summaries. Gerald mentioned a new website will soon be displaying summaries, agendas, presentations and other materials relevant to the meetings and Task Force. He also mentioned that there will be additions to the Task Force and introduced Tim Schofield, one such new addition. Gerald then handed the meeting over to Tom Keady, VP of Governmental Relations & Community Affairs, at Boston College (BC).

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Tom introduced the team from BC, VHB and Sasaki and said that the agenda would be housing and athletics and next month will be on transportation. Additionally, the IMPNF for the 10 year Institutional Master Plan will most likely be filed in May.

After an intro from Tom, Linda Eastley of Sasaki started the presentation. There are two concurrent processes taking place: the long term 30-50 year plan and the 10 year IMP. Linda mentioned strategic initiatives, planning and design principles for the 30-50 year plan.

Housing is very important to the students, said Linda and students for the most part want to be on campus. BC wants to make sure that the student's experience is a holistic one. BC is not a "suitcase college"—students stay around on the weekends and enjoy the social life on campus—which results in their students having greater ownership of the buildings. Partly in response to requests from some in the community, BC is looking to increase the percentage of undergraduates housed on campus from 85% to 90% or more. The importance of housing communities (300-500 students in a cluster) was mentioned as well as adjacencies to academic co-curricular buildings and connections to open space.

Linda presented BC's housing priorities:

1. Foster Street Jesuit Seminary Housing, +70 beds, possibly town house style
2. Brighton Campus, +600 beds, apartment style
2. More Hall Site, +350-460 beds, apartment style
3. Demolition of Edmonds Hall, -790 beds
 - Hall is outdated and it is difficult to get students to want to live here
4. Shea Field, +490 beds, 4 floors

There was a question about the Reservoir and what the impact of the Shea Field dorms will have on the Reservoir. The question led to a short discussion on reservoir planning which is being undertaken by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in conjunction with a working group, of which BC is a member. The Chestnut Hill Resource Management Plan was funded in part by Boston College and the Waterworks Development, each contributing \$25,000. Proposed Phase 1 improvements totaling \$1,050,000 will be funded through \$900,000 from the Waterworks project and \$150,000 from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA).

5. Demolish 10 mods, - 185 beds
6. Add new mods site, +175 beds
7. Long term housing
 - Graduate housing on Brighton
 - Undergraduate on upper campus
 - Undergraduate on lower campus
 - Graduate along College Road

There were questions about College Road, the proposed realignment of St. Thomas More Road, entrances to campus and T station relocation. There was then an explanation of why 90% was the target percentage of students to live on campus and that getting to 100% was not realistic due to circumstances such as study abroad and students choosing to live off campus or commute to BC.

Councilor Jerry McDermott asked, "why not keep kids on the other side of Comm. Ave?" To this question, Gerald mentioned that the possibility of putting undergraduates on the new Brighton Campus had been raised by some in the community and that BC was responding with one possible housing scenario, although it was clear that not everyone agreed with that and that more discussion of housing was necessary.

Councilor McDermott said that if you move students out of houses in the neighborhood, young families are not going to move in but other students from other colleges.

It was suggested by Task Force member John Bruno that at the next meeting BC come in with different housing scenarios.

Linda Eastley then started the second half of the presentation on the athletic and recreation goals which include activities for all students and growing intramural and club sports recreation time. She then gave a description of:

1. Brighton Fields
2. Tennis Center
3. Rec. Center
4. Shea Field
5. Newton Fields Support Building

Questions were raised about community use of the fields on the Brighton campus. BC responded that the College would be open to allowing community use as long as the neighbors supported it. In Newton the neighbors of one BC field opposed allowing community use due to the impacts on the immediate neighbors. If community use were allowed, it would be under supervised conditions only. Access to the fields would be controlled and BC staff would supervise any community use.

After the presentation there were questions on the proposed fences and gates around the fields which could be designed in wrought iron, lighting of the playing fields until 10pm during the fall and spring seasons, blimp activity, which is not sanctioned by Boston College, during sporting events such as football, the height of the tennis center which will be 3 levels, and summer camps/clinics which may be a possibility.

Points that were brought up after the presentation include providing handouts so community members can see names of the streets, an acoustical study of the playing fields should be done, the 200 car garage and the 2000 seat baseball field should be rethought, a walking path around the fields could be a community benefit, environmental impacts should be studied and that present community members are encouraged to bring more people to task force meetings because there is strength in numbers.

Lastly, Gerald said that the idea of having sub-committees will be taken into consideration to focus on particular areas of interest, such as the details of the playing fields, which are of primary interest to the abutters of the proposed fields.

The meeting ended at 8:36.