

Boston College Task Force
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Brighton Marine Medical Center
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

I. Attendance:

Boston College Task Force

Jean Woods, Chair
Paul Berkeley
John Bruno
Tim Burke
Kevin Carragee
Anabela Gomes
Rosie Hanlon
Denis Minihane
Janet Tambascio Fraher
Angela Tang
John Vitale

Boston College

Jack Dunn, Director, Office of Public Affairs
Joe Herlihy, General Counsel
Tom Keady, VP, Governmental and Community Affairs
Evie Kuran, Institutional Master Plan Project Coordinator,
Jeanne Levesque, Director, Governmental Relations
Bill Mills, Directory, Community Affairs

VHB

Howard Muisse

City of Boston

John FitzGerald, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Katelyn Sullivan, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Paul Holloway, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Dion Irish, Inspectional Services Department

II. Summary:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Task Force Chair Jean Woods and the Task Force members introduced themselves. Tom Keady, Vice President of Governmental and Community Affairs, introduced the BC and consultant team members in attendance. Tom then introduced Dion Irish, Assistant Commissioner & Director of Housing, for Boston's Inspectional Services Department. The Housing Inspection Division enforces the State Sanitary Code and City of Boston ordinances that regulate the quality of Boston's public and private housing stock. Dion discussed overcrowding, rooming/lodging houses, and answered questions. One item that he specifically mentioned was that the required square footage per person is 150 square feet for the first person and 100 square feet for each additional occupant. Some community members thought that the number was low and Dion replied that space requirements are

a state law. Dion said that his office usually investigates/answers complaints within 3-5 days and he encouraged residents to call the Mayor's 24 Hour Hotline at (617) 635-4500 to report potential violations.

During the question and answer portion of the meeting, resident Eva Webster suggested requiring landlords to obtain dormitory licenses. In response, Dion Irish cautioned that many of the people living in these overcrowded houses are not students but young professionals.

Next, Joe Herlihy, BC General Counsel, announced that the University plans to file an amendment to its current Institutional Master Plan (IMP) to substitute Bishop Peterson Hall for St. William's Hall as the facility to be renovated and used as the location for the BC School of Theology and Ministry. He indicated that Bishop Peterson Hall is a better location for the program because there are less renovations needed and they can share resources with St. John's Seminary. The building will contain classrooms and offices for the new School of Theology and Ministry which is comprised of the Weston Jesuit School of Theology (WJST), The Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry (IREPM), and the Church in the 21st Century Online program.

This amendment will also seek approval to renovate and use the existing Library building, formerly owned by St. John's Seminary, for use by both St. John's Seminary and the BC School of Theology and Ministry. The Library will continue to house the St. John's Seminary collection and the WJST Collection will be added and relocated to this facility.

Some community members wanted to know why BC was filing an amendment to the current IMP rather than just incorporate it into the new IMP. Joe Herlihy explained that this amendment is necessary to meet the Fall 2008 timeline for the WJST relocation. Others thought that perhaps there would be too much reading as it is possible that the amendment could come at the same time as the Institutional Master Plan Notification Form for the new BC IMP. Tom Keady assured the audience that there would be little or no overlap between the amendment comment period and the filing of the IMP.

Jeanne Levesque, Director of Government Relations, presented information on the health of a number of diseased and/or dead trees in various locations on the Brighton Campus that are scheduled to be removed the week of September 24th. This is the second group of trees to be removed after a certified arborist from Arborway Tree Care conducted an assessment and reported that these trees were either in a severe state of decline or dead due to lack of ongoing maintenance and proper treatment for diseases at an early stage. The removal is necessary for the preservation of the healthy trees and to address safety concerns.

In response to questions from the community, Tom Keady summarized BC's recent strategy to minimize excessive noise, disruptive parties and underage drinking in the neighborhoods by Team Policing from midnight to 3AM on the weekends. He said the walking patrols by BC Staff, BC Police, and Boston Police have been effective in quickly responding to neighborhood complaints and addressing the problem houses. Various residents confirmed the increased visibility of the police presence and thanked Tom Keady for his efforts.

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

