



Meeting Notes
January 7, 2008
6:00pm-7:45 PM
Dudley Library
65 Warren Street

RSMPOC Members Present: Darnell Williams, Dorothea Jones, Joe Cefalo, Donovan Walker, Dan Richardson, John Barros, Charlotte Nelson, Reggie Jackson, Elected Officials: Councilor Chuck Turner, RNC: Julio Henriquez

Darnell Williams (OC Chair) opened the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reminded everyone of the upcoming Urban Ring presentation and Community Workshop for Parcel 8, 9 and 10 later this month. The Bartlett yard workshops were very informative, especially the breakout groups.

The Meeting notes from 11/19/2007 were unanimously approved.

Norman Stembridge and Michael Miles would be absent this evening.

Committee for Union Organizing

Councilor Turner (OC) felt that Roxbury had an opportunity as a community to develop businesses, but also to strengthen the workforce in the construction field. The developments who have done the best with Roxbury jobs have tackled the issue in an organized way. The OC should create a subcommittee to begin negotiations with the trade unions. The OC is involved creating long-term construction projects. Boston has a framework for this, but success has been achieved with a specific neighborhood approach and as these are very complex issues, it is best to begin early. He gave the example of the DSNI and Salvation Army in Upham's Corner. Maybe we need the Mayor's assistance. This could have serious economic benefits to Roxbury.

Darnell (OC) thanked him and suggested he submit a request in writing to allow for a more substantial conversation.

Donovan Walker (OC) that opportunities needed to be created for people 18-25, both for jobs and lifetimes skills. Getting into the unions is difficult.

Dorothea Jones (OC) felt this was a good idea, as was getting young people into apprenticeships and workshops.

Julio Henriquez (RNC) stated that in the abstract, this is a good idea. The reality is that young people need training. Most jobs come through developers and general contractors. No one leave Madison Park TVHS with a union apprenticeship.

Joe Cefalo (OC) felt that all the point were excellent. He suggested the potential for using \$\$ received into the proposed trust as a funding source for educational programs. Then, we can make demands through the RFP process and mandate that the goals are met. It has to be crafted right.

OC members volunteering: Dan Richardson, Dorothea Jones, Donovan Walker, John Barros, Julio Henriquez

Councilor Turner (OC) stated that Madison Park had just entered into an agreement with the Boston Building Trades Council so that graduating students would get credit for some of their training at MP. I will write up a letter and send it to the Chair.

Darnell (OC) also urged including adults up to age 35.

Julio (RNC) wanted to hear more about MP's credit program.

Councilor Turner (OC) replied that they receive credits towards the apprenticeship program.

Charlotte Nelson (OC) had a general comment concerning Joe's statements around funding. She asked if the OC's role would be funding for training and RFPs?

Councilor Turner (OC) stated that currently, the MP programs and OC programs were different. Is it worth setting up a separate program? He was not sure.

Parcel 8, 9 and 10

John Dalzell (BRA) went over the two documents in front of the OC: the workshop agenda and the workshop workplan. He wanted to encourage OC members to help with the workshop. This process has been successful with Bartlett Yard and elsewhere. He felt the role of the OC was to help facilitate the breakout groups.

Donovan (OC) asked about outreach.

John (BRA) replied that he would get to that.

Dan (OC) urged OC members who lived nearby to attend the meeting.

Darnell (OC) agreed and felt that the OC brought tremendous knowledge to the table.

Charlotte (OC) thought that everyone was supposed to attend.

John (BRA) stated that he hoped for 60 or more people to attend as well as OC members.

Reggie Jackson (OC) asked about the disposition scheduling. John (OC) replied that this was a topic for the 3rd workshop. He then went through the workplan and agenda.

Joe (OC) stated that the economic climate is different than that of a year ago. Should we look at RFPs differently? We might not get any response to these RFPs. We should focus on conceptual goals, nothing too narrow.

Darnell (OC) asked what should be done differently.

Joe (OC) we should craft RFPs so that developers with good ideas have the flexibility to get projects done.

John (BRA) stated that there have been similar strategies at other sites. These sites are very different from Bartlett Yard. It is more suitable for a mix of uses.

Julio (RNC) asked about how the PRC would work for these parcels.

Darnell (OC) felt 9 and 10 could go together, then 8.

Julio (RNC) still felt the issue needed to be resolved. Darnell (OC) agreed.

Councilor Turner (OC) expressed concern. He was under the impression that they were grouped for planning, but disposition was up in the air.

Donovan (OC) brought up the bus lot.

John (BRA) stated that the BRA would present what they had for the bus lot at the workshop.

Charlotte (OC) felt that the improvements to the Melnea Cass corridor tied in here as well.

John (BRA) replied that this would be discussed, as well as the Washington Street corridor.

Darnell (OC) made the point that time is money, and that sometimes community process loses sight of this and the market shifts. We need to be more strategic.

Dan (OC) felt that there was a need to move quickly as well, and the OC has done that. Parcel 8 has been planned to death, let's not duplicate previous work.

John (OC) agreed that the RSMP was a starting point.

Darnell (OC) stated that he was trying to illustrate a point.

Donovan (OC) felt it had been too long since a discussion had occurred on the disbursement of funds to the community.

Joe (OC) asked for quarterly updates on Parcel P-3 and Bartlett Yard.

Councilor Turner (OC) stated that he had made several calls to the Patrick administration and an ongoing discussion with EOT was occurring. He hoped to provide an update at the February meeting.

Joe (OC) made the point that tremendous work is done at the community workshops, then later in the process people question that work. Charlotte Nelson has spoken eloquently about this.

Charlotte (OC) felt that outreach was important was well. Can we share the outcome of this?

Darnell (OC) asked about an OC inert for the Banner.

Joe (OC) also suggested Bob Terrel's TV show.

Julio (RNC) stated that this body has been doing work for three years and we need updates on previous projects.

Darnell (OC) stated that the OC could work with the BRA on this.

Councilor Turner (OC) asked for a Parcel P-3 and Bartlett Yard update in February.

Donovan (OC) repeated his request for an OC admin.

Reggie (OC) felt that with PRCs serving as IAGs, double duty was likely and OC support will be needed.

John (BRA) discussed outreach. The BRA would be reaching out via newspaper and email. He urged OC members to invite people they felt would be interested. Word of mouth is important. He also asked for suggestions of groups to contact.

Donovan (OC) made a number of suggestions. John (BRA) added that he had spoken with Tropical Foods that day as well.

Councilor Turner (OC) made a motion for consideration to attempt to better utilize BNN's capacity. The Executive Committee should ask Barbara-Barrow Murray to work on this and report back in April.

Charlotte (OC) spoke to the importance of building a TV constituency.

Darnell (OC) asked for a discussion, there was none, and the motion passed unanimously.

Charlotte and Dan volunteered to contact Barbara.

Julio (RNC) asked about the Dudley projects.

Darnell (OC) promised a February update.

Joe (OC) suggested listing old business on the agenda.

John (BRA) mentioned the Urban Ring presentation on 1/17, and well as the community workshop on 1/26.

Charlotte (OC) felt that there needed to be outreach for the Urban Ring meeting as well. EOT will want to Roxbury feedback.

Reggie (OC) asked if they had recommendations? Charlotte (OC) replied not yet, but that they were getting there.

Community Comments

Audience Member Bruce Bickerstaff supported the idea of a OC support staff position. He also asked about the pros and cons of combining the parcels for discussion. He also wanted to encourage local involvement in the development of these parcels. Additionally, can we have a conversation with the local institutions about developing stronger partnerships?

Audience Member asked about possible themes for the development along Melnea Cass Boulevard?

Darnell (OC) replied that the focus was on jobs in addition to slowing traffic and transportation improvements such as the Urban Ring.

Dan (OC) added that some people still think that area is part of the South End. The overall theme is to generate wealth.

Meeting Adjourned