Envisioning Your Neighborhood

PLAN: Mattapan

December 10, 2018
AGENDA

1 Presentation
   What We Have Heard.
   What Is Planning?

2 Small Group Activity
   SWOT Discussion

3 Large Group Discussion
   Report Back
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Presentation

What We Have Heard.
What Is Planning?
What we have heard.

Jobs and Businesses
- Commercial Space
- Diversity of Businesses
- Jobs
- Training

Open Space and Climate Resilience
- Access
- Playspaces
- Programming
- Streetscapes
- Urban Agriculture
- Tree Canopy

Neighborhood Identity
- Arts and Culture
- Maintaining Community
- Public Art
- Public Space Activation
- Placemaking/Placemaintaining

Housing
- Housing Affordability
- Transitional Housing
- Homeownership
- Housing Types

Other
- Architecture
- City Services
- Communication
- Stone Building

Mobility
- Transit Access
- Walkability
- Bicycles
- Traffic

Safety
- 3.1%
Quick Facts

- 40% of the Mattapan community was born outside of the United States
- 84% of those were born in the Caribbean*

*Boston in Context by the BPDA (March 2018)

Community Comment

- “Keep the neighborhood the neighborhood. Don’t lose Mattapan”
- “Untap the latent talent and power in Mattapan”
Quick Facts

● More than 54,000 units in the City of Boston are income-restricted - that’s nearly 20%, or one in five units in the city*

● 22% of housing stock in Mattapan is income-restricted*

*Income-Restricted Housing In Boston by DND (Nov 2018)

Community Comment

● “More micro-unit housing for single adults to save and get back on their feet”

● “Affordable housing throughout the neighborhood in line with average local incomes”
Quick Facts

- About 17% of Mattapan’s land area is devoted to open space
  - Approximately 1.5 million SF (~35 acres) of land is used for Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields
- “All Boston residents now have a park within a 10-minute walk of their home” (Mayor Walsh press release 10/18/18)

Community Comment

- Second highest category of comments from the 10/25/18 Open House
  - “Better access to the neponset and make it safe”
  - “More learning activities in the park - tennis, basketball, exercise programs”
Quick Facts

- Mattapan had 2,062 jobs in 2014, 50% of which were in Health Care, Social Assistance and Retail Trade.

- The top occupations of Mattapan’s residents in 2015: Health Care, Social Assistance, and Retail Trade.

  *Source: Boston in Context by the BPDA (March 2018)*

Community Comment

- Most of the comments from the 10/25/18 Open House were about Mattapan Square.

- “More variety of business opportunities on Blue Hill”

- “Sit-down restaurant in the Square!”

*Photo Credit: Mattapan Square Main Streets*
Quick Facts

● 82% of the Mattapan community drive to work alone
  ○ Of the other modes of transportation, 34% commuted by bus or trolley/train

● It takes more than 60 minutes to get to work for 26% of the Mattapan community - the highest in the City

Source: Boston in Context by the BPDA (March 2018)

Community Comment

● “Traffic and beautification plan for Blue Hill Ave”

● “Activate public spaces for more vitality”
Process Overview

2018
- Workshop 1: Open House 10/25
- 11/01 & 12/06 Chat with a Planner

2019
- Workshop 2: Envisioning Mattapan 12/10
- Workshop 3: To be Decided 02/??

2020
- Drafting Plan Recommendations
- Reviewing PLAN: Mattapan Drafts
- Strategizing implementation

WORKSHOPS
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS
Chat with a Planner
Pop-Ups
Events
Any other ideas?
Planning involves *creating a shared vision with the community* for where we want to be in the future.

It *maps out the path* to implement that vision.

Planning is an *interdisciplinary field* dedicated to systematic and creative approaches to improving communities and places.
We plan together. We are the conveners and facilitators, but the planning process requires the participation of all the stakeholders in a community to be meaningful and sustainable.
Why do we Plan?
Why do we Plan?

Planning will produce a **framework** to predictably shape the future of our neighborhoods and will identify opportunities to **preserve**, **enhance**, and **grow**.
The primary tools of planning are **policy, urban design guidelines, and zoning.**

As we move through the planning process, we will identify short-term, mid-term, and long-term action items which **support community priorities and goals.**
2 Small Group Exercise

SWOT Exercise
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

5 Themes

Neighborhood Identity
Housing
Open Space & Climate Resilience
Jobs & Businesses
Mobility
SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

**Strengths**
A condition or feature that adds value to the neighborhood

**Weaknesses**
A condition or feature that is lacking in the neighborhood

**Opportunities**
Something that could improve the neighborhood or build off an existing strength

**Threats**
Something that could negatively impact a neighborhood in the future
3 Large Group Discussion

Report Back
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