

Dorchester Avenue Zoning Update

Advisory Group Meeting #8--Questions
November 16, 2011

(Questions and comments from Advisory Group members and community members are listed in ***bold italics***)

-Parking identified as a potentially contentious issue because it's a way for communities to prevent a business they don't want from opening up.

-AG member noted there doesn't appear to be any other stickler issues (ie zoning changes) and that reducing parking regulations would be a big help for many potential business owners.

-Request for a review of the distinctions between A, C, and F (ie. zoning use regulations)

-What happens if a use is approved and then, over time, drifts away from the approved use? What's to prevent/regulate that?

-Clarification requested on whether the Dot Ave district will remain or if it's being eliminated entirely.

-Does live entertainment include quiet, ambience-enhancing music (violinist, accordionist, etc.)? Is there a way to distinguish?

-Attendee requested that professional offices be allowed as of right in residential area near hospital. He noted that allowing ground floor offices could bring new business into the neighborhood and would have no negative impact. Another AG member raised the point that this used to be standard practice (office on GF, practitioner living upstairs).

-Discussion about how to most legibly present use table; show everything versus keeping different tables separate.

-Allowing gyms as-of-right potentially problematic? AG member described a gym in South Boston that is running a gang member rehab weightlifting program. Is this allowable?

-Question about restrictions on roof terraces – how stringent?

-Interest expressed in pursuing the removal of underutilized bus stops to free up additional parking spaces.