

Boston College Task Force
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, May 15, 2007 (tour)
St. Williams Hall, Boston College Brighton Campus
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

I. Attendance:

Boston College Task Force

Jean Woods, Chair
Paul Berkeley
Janet Tambascio Fraher
John Bruno
Tim Burke
Anabela Gomes
Rosemarie Hanlon
Angela Tang

Boston College

Tom Keady - Governmental & Community Affairs
Evie Kuran - Governmental & Community Affairs
Jeanne Levesque - Governmental & Community Affairs
Bill Mills - Governmental & Community Affairs

VHB

Howard Muise

Sasaki

Linda Eastley

Elected Officials

City of Boston

Gerald Autler, Boston Redevelopment Authority
John FitzGerald, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Katelyn Sullivan, Boston Redevelopment Authority

The first half of this Task Force meeting was devoted to a walking tour of the potential building sites. The purpose of the tour was to provide the Task Force and the community with greater familiarity with the property and an on-site review of the proposed development plans.

The second half of the meeting consisted of a brief presentation of the housing alternatives and priorities. Gerald started off the second half with an overview of the Article 80 process and zoning. He said that anyone who has questions about the process can contact him. He pointed out that any uses need to be included in an approved Institutional Master Plan, which means that BC could not, for example, put undergraduate students in housing built as graduate student housing without amending their Institutional Master Plan, a process that would require significant public input (the same process as creating a new Institutional Master Plan). In addition, he described the Conservation Preservation Subdistrict (CPS) zoning and stated that while the Institutional Master Plan District overrides the CPS, the BRA would encourage Boston College, as they develop their Institutional Master Plan, to be sensitive to the conservation and preservation principles that were adopted for this area of Brighton in Article 51 of the Boston Zoning Code.

Tim Schofield (TF member) announced that he is resigning his post as a Task Force member because he plans to run for the Allston-Brighton seat on the Boston City Council.

Linda Eastley from Sasaki began her presentation with an overview of the planning/design principles, IMP/strategic plan and mission of BC. She recognized that in their planning process the landscape was key and aimed to have the new buildings frame the landscape.

Lastly, Linda detailed housing alternatives and priorities.

The next half hour was devoted to questions, answers and comments. One of the first questions was about the number of graduate students housed by BC. Currently, BC does not provide housing for graduate students. In the IMP, BC is proposing housing for graduate/Jesuit students on Foster Street and additional graduate housing in the long-range 30-50 year plan in both Boston and Newton. There was also a question that asked when students go abroad, are there students that replace them such as students from other countries. BC said they will find out the answer.

In response to an inquiry about undergraduate parking, BC indicated that the only resident undergraduate students who are eligible for parking permits are juniors and seniors enrolled in a Boston College sponsored practicum or internship and that the internship site is NOT ACCESSIBLE by public transportation. .

One community member and BC alum asked BC whether or not they have consulted BC theologians, sociologists and psychologists suggesting they could give valuable insight to the planning process. BC responded that they have met with many campus advisory groups over the course of developing the Strategic Plan.

A parent of a former student brought up the possible isolation students could feel if their dorm was not somewhat close to the center of campus.

A community member commented that BC is trying to move students on campus, but the campus is moving closer to the community. Tom responded to this by addressing student behavior which, he admits, has been the worst it has been in years. He was hopeful, however, because there will be new procedures and personnel to turn student behavior around. There is now an opportunity to make things better he said.

It was a consensus by many residents that it does not make sense to demolish Edmonds Hall. However, BC explained that Edmonds Hall was so outdated that it would cost more to repair it than to construct a new building.

Lastly, a community member wanted to remind everyone that there is a BC community but there is also a broader community to be concerned with.