

Suffolk University Task Force Meeting
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, May 16, 2007
Suffolk Law School, 120 Tremont Street, first floor conference room
6:00-8:00 p.m.

I. Attendance

Suffolk University Task Force Members

Mary Ann Ponti
Rob Whitney
Louise Thomas
Beatrice Nessen
Christine Dunn
Anne Meyers (for Tim Obert)
Bob O'Brien
Margaret Carr
Jane Forrestall
Billie Lawrence

Suffolk University

Gordon King
Michael Feeley
John Nucci
Elizabeth Leary
James Greene

CKS

Alex Krieger
David Gamble
Andrew Watkins

City of Boston

Gerald Autler, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Katelyn Sullivan, Boston Redevelopment Authority
William Onuoha, Mayor's Office
Sita Smith, Office of Councilor Ross

Alex Krieger presented on facilities needs, clusters (potential growth areas), and potential acquisitions in these clusters. He started off the presentation with cluster 4, which includes New Chardon, Staniford, Merrimac and Sudbury Streets. Sites of interest in this cluster are the Government Center Garage site and the Hurley and Lindemann Buildings. Hawkins Street was brought up by a community member as a potential street that might provide building opportunities.

Cluster 3, the Court Street area, includes the Ames Building, 18 Tremont Street, the Old School Building 25055 Court Street and 1-2-3 Center Plaza. Alex said that the Ames Building would be more efficient for dormitory space compared to Center Plaza because Center Plaza does not have ideal dimensions.

However, it is still a possibility. A Task Force member asked if the city was paying attention to the potential tax loss of the buildings. Gerald said that there could be a meeting devoted to this topic.

Cluster 2, Bromfield Street, includes 101, 90, and 125 Tremont Street, 373-387 Washington Street, 29-23 Bromfield Street and the Omni Parker House.

Cluster 5 is the existing Suffolk campus. There was discussion on the idea of having the Sawyer Business School move into 73 Tremont and details of student services were discussed. A Task Force member asked if Suffolk was still looking for space for a gym and could space be shared with Emerson.

Billie Lawrence brought up the idea of Suffolk becoming a sort of real estate umbrella by acquiring income producing properties and described examples in Chicago and Atlanta.

Cluster 1, Temple/West Streets is where the proposed 10 West Student Residence is located. The Modern Theater which next door to the potential dorm is owned by the BRA and has been brought up as a potential site for either Emerson or Suffolk due to location.

Alex then showed the Task Force the NYU campus map. He said that there were similarities to Suffolk and the way in which the planning process might move forward. Specifically, there is a center campus area and various buildings encircling that center.

A community member suggested that Boston universities not be able to increase enrollment.

It was asked if Suffolk would ever consider moving entirely out of the Beacon Hill area. John Nucci said that at this point that is not being considered and would be hard to do because of the long-time relationship with the area.

It was suggested by a community member that Suffolk and Task Force keep in mind during this process how students will be traveling from one area of the city to another to get to class, gym, dorms, etc. Additionally, it would be valuable to keep in mind campus connections and adjacencies.

Will Onuoha, Mayor's Office, responded to a community member by saying that the Mayor is concerned about the community, not just with Suffolk's needs.

Lastly, Peggy Carr gave an overview of the 10 West subcommittee meetings and Gerald described the next steps in the Article 80 Process.

The Task Force decided to cancel the May 31 meeting. The subcommittee will meet on May 22 and the whole Task Force will meet on June 14.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.