

Suffolk University Subcommittee Meeting
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, May 22, 2007
Amenities Room, 73 Tremont Street
4:00-5:00 p.m.

I. Attendance

Suffolk University Subcommittee Members

Mary Ann Ponti
Christine Dunn
Tim Obert
Margaret Carr

Suffolk University

Michael Feeley
John Nucci
Elizabeth Leary

CKS

David Gamble

VHB

Howard Muise

City of Boston

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

The meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Gerald began the meeting with an overview of the Midtown Cultural District Plan which was handed out to Suffolk and the subcommittee members. The Plan was brought up at a public meeting by a community member who suggested that the subcommittee become familiar with it. Gerald said that the Plan is about 20 years old and, while dated, sets forth objectives that are relevant today such as increased residents in the area. He said he was unaware of anything in the Plan that suggested that student housing was not an acceptable use, and that the current zoning in the area lists student housing as a conditional use.

John Nucci then gave an update on Suffolk's purchase process and proposed construction schedule. He said that Suffolk plans to purchase the 10 West building in about two weeks and plans to close mid-June. Suffolk is shooting for Labor Day occupancy. At the latest, the move-in date will be in January. Suffolk is being cautious and performing their due diligence on critical renovations to the building such as elevator and vent replacement.

Lastly, there was continued discussion on retail use for the first floor. Marketing materials are at the Las Vegas Retailers Convention in hopes of getting word out. Elizabeth said that she has a good idea of the types of retail the subcommittee is interested in and wanted to know what they do not want to see. Peggy Carr said that she did not want to see sneakers, cell phone or discount stores. There was agreement. Other ideas were circulated as possibilities for the first floor such as Sephora, Trader Joes, The Other Side, Boston Bean Company and Francesca's.

The next meeting will be June 4th at 4pm and the agenda will include a presentation on a population survey, more on retail and community benefits.