

**Wentworth Institute of Technology  
BPDA Wentworth Task Force & Public meeting  
Multipurpose Academic Building**

**Tuesday January 24, 2017  
Beatty Multipurpose Room**

**Minutes**

**BPDA:** Katelyn Sullivan, Project Manager

**Task Force:** Jane D'Angelo, Mission Main Tenants Task Force  
Susan St. Clair, Mission Hill Resident, Problem Properties Task Force  
David Welch, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services  
Patricia Flaherty, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services  
Sheneal Parker, Fenway CDC  
Matilda Drayton, Alice Heyward Taylor Apartments  
Judy Mercer, Alice Heyward Taylor Apartments  
John Jackson, Tobin Community Center  
Matthew Brooks, Fenway Civic Association  
Mash Abdirahman, Mission Hill Main Streets

**Wentworth:** David A. Wahlstrom, Vice President, Business  
Sandy Pascal, Associate VP, Community Relations & External Affairs  
Johanna Sena, Community Relations Liaison  
Lula Drayton, Technical Assistant  
Courtney Wright, Asst. Director, Center for Learning & Community Partnerships  
Edward King, Project Consultant, Edward M. King & Associates  
Judith Kohn, Vice President, Fort Point Associates, Inc.  
Jennifer Schultz, Goodwin Procter LLP  
Josiah Stevenson. Principal, Leers Weinzapfel Associates Architects  
James. Kolb, Vice President, STV|DPM  
Sam Aureli | Project Executive, Gilbane Building Company  
Sean Manning, Principal, VHB

**Public:** Collin Fedor, Representative Sanchez's Office  
Nick Carter, Representative Josh Zakim's Office  
Yissel Guerrero, Representative Mayor Walsh's Office  
Ricardo Sanchez, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services  
A. Mclauley, Boston resident

*PowerPoint presentation available at [www.wit.edu/imp](http://www.wit.edu/imp)*

## **Welcome and Overview**

Katelyn kicked off the meeting. Invited attendees to visit the BPDA website for documents/filings. Comments are due on 2/13. Welcomed representatives from elected officials.

## **Welcome & Introductions**

Sandy Pascal introduced Wentworth staff. Invited the Task Force members to introduce themselves as well as project consultants.

## **Need for Academic Space**

David Wahlstrom reviewed the building per BPDA filings. Location of building on tennis courts. WIT is transition from engineering technology to engineering. David talked about the various degrees offered at Wentworth from 1960 to the present. This is an interdisciplinary type of project which will introduce new biological engineering program; from the perspective of medical and environmental. The Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship / Accelerate will be housed here as well. The building will be a very glassy and open which allows one to see what's happening inside. The manufacturing lab will have 3D printers and all high tech equipment to support the programs. The Lobby is designed to showcase student projects and faculty work. It used to be that Friday afternoon the campus was empty, but now campus is beaming with activity.

## **Multipurpose Academic Building**

Josiah Stevenson discussed how much care and thought WIT puts into minimizing impacts in the neighborhood. Stated that there is no place is higher education that cares more about the neighborhood in which they are in as much as Wentworth

Josiah reviewed the slides on programming and building description. Reviewed the tennis court location in relation to the community. The glassy building is different than other buildings, but also wanted it to fit in with the rest of the campus hence using similar colors. Reviewed slides on existing conditions. Showed walkthrough video showcasing the Multipurpose Academic Building as if walked around and inside.

## **Permitting Process & Schedule**

Jennifer Schultz reviewed the proposed schedule. Filed the IMPNF and Expanded PNF on 1/13/2017. The building was envisioned in 2010 IMP in a smaller scale and different location. The site is unique in that WIT is its own immediate abutter on all sides. Reviewed public benefit slides. The Multipurpose Academic Building will enhance pedestrian quality, enliven and

improve WIT presence. Currently the tennis courts do not get a lot of use since it is not up to NCAA standards. Reviewed IMP slide which shows relocation of building.

## Questions & Answers

Katelyn opened the meeting to questions.

- Dave Welch expressed concern regarding incidents on college campuses. Since this building is wide open what will be the safety measures?

Dave Wahlstrom – we are discussing it internally. Several buildings have card access and we are considering same measure for the MpA. We are also looking into type of glass used, at the library we used bullet protection glass. Have a lot of trainings on campus on active shooter for students, faculty, and staff.

Josiah – sometimes openness created more safety.

Sandy – back when she started at WIT there was debate about closing the campus, but instead worked with the community. It's important to neighbors to have a campus that's open and not blocked to the community.

Matilda – agreed with Sandy. Alice Taylor Housing does not want to be shut out. Residents use the Pike to walk across and even the cafeteria. Alice Taylor Housing sees WIT as a part of the community. We want to be part of the institution, we want to be a partner.

Sandy – same idea on Ward Street, to keep space open.

- Sheneal - interest in jobs that may be available and how people go about applying for these jobs? Want to ensure that the community has a timeline of how jobs will be available.

Sam Aureli (Gilbane Construction) – Danielle Skilling will be the community outreach person for these opportunities and will work with the WIT Community Relations team.

Sandy – WIT offers free tuition for Fenway MH residents where they can take courses in welding and construction management. Recommends that residents reach out to Johanna and Sandy to connect people individually.

- Susan – now that WIT is adapting its majors, how has application to admissions changed?

Dave Wahlstrom – applications have increased, parents have become very savvy and wait until the last minute to send their deposit. Admissions on its own is a science. Sometimes we have very low numbers, and suddenly increase. It's a very stressful time for colleges.

- Susan – do you expect enrollment to go up?

Dave Wahlstrom – no, we expect a modest decrease as we are phasing out technical programs. In the past few years it has been up due the phasing out of technical programs and introducing new engineering programs.

- Dave Wahlstrom – do you like the building?

All – yes!

- Saran Hamilton (MASCO) – great opening of pedestrian way (The Pike), what kind of lighting or amenities along that stretch?

Josiah – It will have lighting from the building. Not sufficient room to install light poles.

Dave Wahlstrom – hope that building will be its own lantern at night.

- Sarah – will there be pedestrian access during construction of the building?

Sam – its going to be difficult, especially at the beginning of construction. It's a tight site since cannot access building from the Watson side. Very valuable to access building 360 degrees.

Dave Wahlstrom – we experienced a similar scenario with the Flanagan Camus Center where we had to reroute people.

## **Closing**

Katelyn closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.