

**WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008**

MINUTES

Task Force Members Present: Jimmie Beverly, Susan D'Amato, Bill Kantaros,
Sheneal Parker, Carrie Simon, Adeline Stallings

Guests: David Dixon, Goody Clancy / Perkins+Will
Tim Marsters, Goody Clancy / Perkins+Will
Katelyn Sullivan, Program Assistant, Boston Redevelopment Authority

Wentworth Representatives: Bill McCarthy, Legal Counsel
Mary Ollinger, Assistant, Business & Finance
Sandy Pascal, AVP, Community Relations & External Affairs

Public: Mark Laderman, Roman Koebel

1. Welcome & Introductions

Sandy welcomed the representatives from Goody Clancy / Perkins+Will, Wentworth's campus master planning firm, and all present introduced themselves.

2. Institutional Master Plan Update

Bill briefly reviewed the recent Institutional Master Plan Notification Form (IMP NF) filing, renewing Wentworth's Institutional Master Plan (IMP) for a one-year term. He added that the IMP NF proposed no new projects and the extension gives Wentworth adequate time to complete its internal campus master planning initiative and to obtain certificates of consistency for the 525 & 634 Huntington Open Space Projects approved last summer. Bill noted that, under Articles 80 and 59, IMP NFs for renewal of an IMP have to be submitted before the 8th anniversary of the original approval. Wentworth's IMP NF for renewal was submitted to the BRA on April 4, 2008 and approved by the board on May 15, 2008.

3. Wentworth Campus Master Plan

David Dixon gave a brief introduction and ran through the PowerPoint presentation he will be presenting at the neighborhood meeting this Saturday, June 14th. He stressed that the purpose of the meeting tonight was to get feedback from the task force (on both structure and format) and to help him tighten the presentation before Saturday.

David presented Saturday's agenda and noted that the breakout sessions would focus on two questions: i) "What should Wentworth be thinking about during this campus planning process?" and ii) "What do you think about Wentworth's edges?"

There was a brief discussion about breaking people out by neighborhood. Sheneal Parker noted that this might depend on the turnout, and that there were benefits of both sitting *with* neighbors and *not sitting with* neighbors, and having the opportunity to hear the concerns of other neighborhoods.

David reviewed the master planning timeline, noting that we are entering the phase of developing alternatives. He noted that the primary purpose of this first neighborhood meeting is to gather information; the second meeting would be used to address these comments and focus on how this information would be incorporated into Wentworth's campus master plan. Looking at the timeline, dates for the second neighborhood meeting were discussed. Jimmie Beverly noted that it would be important for the task force to meet at least once before the second neighborhood meeting. Mary Ollinger asked if the task force felt it would be possible to have a meeting in August, and the response was positive. This issue was revisited again at the end of the meeting and a schedule was developed (see #5).

David Dixon continued with the PowerPoint, reviewing the Community Benefits (slides #8 – #10).

- Jimmie suggested that the list be compiled as a handout and distributed at Saturday's meeting. Sandy remarked that sometimes the list gets so large that it loses its impact. Jimmie pointed out that people don't realize how much Wentworth does in the community.
- Mark Laderman suggested a less contentious "campus edge" picture (on slide #9).
- Sheneal asked whether the community programs (on slide #10) were programs or proposed programs. Sandy responded that they were current, primarily from 2006-2007. She added that some of the programs may have ended and were not continued.

On the Opportunities and Challenges slide (slide #12), the issue of parking prompted discussion.

- Susan D'Amato asked about Wentworth policies regarding freshmen and sophomores having cars on campus. Sandy said that we would get that information for Saturday.
- Sheneal noted that, in addition to discouraging students from bringing cars to campus, Wentworth should also make it clear that students should not be parking their cars in the neighborhood.
- Sandy remarked that Wentworth is caught between the sentiment of the City and Mayor's Office not to add new parking and the need to accommodate our students. It ends up pushing students into the neighborhood.

There was also some concern about the Condition of Facilities slide (slide #13).

- Susan pointed out that the slide could easily be misinterpreted, implying that we have a number of buildings in poor condition that we will need to redevelop. She also pointed out that the buildings in "red" attract attention and suggested using a different color scheme.

- Mary added that, because of the way the slide is setup, it is easy to overlook the evaluation criteria listed down the right side. That the condition of the building isn't necessarily the physical state of the building, but rather the overall condition of the building based on that evaluation criterion. Watson Hall was used as an example: the auditorium was recently renovated and the building seems to be in good condition. However, when evaluating for accessibility, the building is poor.

The Open Spaces slide (slide #16) raised some concern because i) the Evans Way Park appears to be Wentworth-owned and ii) the new gas stations properties are not included as open spaces.

- Bill McCarthy provided a brief update on the status of the Parker Street crosswalk, noting that there will be a formal hearing on July 10th.
- Bill also added that Wentworth is moving forward with the Assessing Department as far as re-apportioning the Parker Street parking lot so as to delineate the MASCO-leased portion as a taxable parcel and the Wentworth-used portion as tax-exempt. Bill noted that that the entire Halleck Street lot is leased by MASCO and therefore, will be a taxable parcel, whereas the Mindoro Street lot (abutting the Orange Line tracks) is only used by Wentworth and Alice Hayward Taylor residents.

David spoke briefly about parking, and specifically raised the notion of underground parking, perhaps under a recreational field/facility on the site of the present Parker Street and, possibly, Halleck Street lots. Bill Kantaros remarked that when Wentworth was exploring the possibility of a hockey rink, community use was going to be a high priority. Bill McCarthy responded that community use would be a component of any athletic/multipurpose facility being considered.

Adeline Stallings voiced concern, noting that Wentworth seems to be increasing enrollment but decreasing parking. There was a short discussion regarding student parking policies and MASCO usage. It was noted that, over time, faculty and staff parking numbers have been decreasing, and that Wentworth would get back to the task force with numbers and details about student parking policies.

Jimmie remarked that the coordination with Parcel 25 for elderly housing on Gurney Street should be pointed out as a community benefit during Saturday's meeting, and Sandy added that perhaps Pat Flaherty could give an update.

In discussing possible ways to connect the campus across Huntington Avenue, Bill Kantaros suggested a possible pedestrian overpass, or even *underpass*, to make that crossing easier for pedestrians. It was noted that the Urban Ring project would further complicate that intersection, and there was a brief discussion regarding the tunnel option and upcoming public meetings. Bill Kantaros asked about on-campus mandates for freshmen and even sophomores. Susan D'Amato noted that this would affect enrollment and retention, citing her own college experience. David Dixon added that, as the cost of living continues to increase, it will be hard for

students to live in neighborhoods as all schools are under pressure to create affordable housing.

Roman Koebel briefly introduced himself (as a Fenway CDC and Urban Village Committee member) and pointed out that he hoped to attend the neighborhood meeting on Saturday. He spoke about the Urban Ring tunnels, noting that they should accommodate light rail service (similar to the orange line) and not simply busses. He cited his work with the Regional Transportation Advisory Council, and emphasized the importance of developing a unified planning work program. Sandy said that they should speak more about this after the meeting.

As we reached the end of the presentation, David asked for any final comments on the substance or format of the presentation. Jimmie said that it was pretty clear and that, as the task force, members should reach out to people they know to get them to the meeting. There was a short conversation about attendance expectations, and it was noted that, due to the Gay Pride Parade, many of the Government offices will not be represented. Sandy also noted that Sociedad Latina had a conflict and that it was particularly disappointing because the youths would not be able to attend. Jimmie added that perhaps we could invite local youths to one of the upcoming task force meetings, and the task force seemed to agree that that was a good idea.

Bill McCarthy noted that, for Saturday's meeting, task force members should speak for themselves and not feel like they need to represent Wentworth. He added, however, that task force members feel free to share their knowledge about Wentworth and its campus in the discussions at their tables.

4. Other Business

There was no other business to report.

5. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

Saturday, June 14th

Neighborhood Meeting

10:00am-12:30pm

Parish Center at the Mission Hill Church

Wednesday, August 13th

Task Force Meeting (to Review Alternatives)

Dinner will be available at 5:30pm and the meeting will begin at 6pm

Wentworth Faculty / Staff Lounge

Wednesday, October 8th

Task Force Meeting (to Review Draft Plan)

Dinner will be available at 5:30pm and the meeting will begin at 6pm

Wentworth Faculty / Staff Lounge

Sometime in October...
Neighborhood Meeting (#2)
Time to be determined
Location to be determined (Wentworth)

The meeting ended at approximately 7:35pm.