

**WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008**

MINUTES

Task Force Members Present: Jimmie Beverly, Susan D'Amato, Sheneal Parker, Carrie Simon, Adeline Stallings, Matilda Drayton, Marika Arvanites

Guests: Amy Kohn, Goody Clancy / Perkins+Will
David Dixon, Goody Clancy / Perkins+Will
Tim Marsters, Goody Clancy / Perkins+Will
Katelyn Sullivan, Program Assistant, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Noel Roycroft, Office of State Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez

Wentworth Representatives: John P. Heinstadt, VP, Business & Finance
David A. Wahlstrom, AVP, Business
Sandy Pascal, AVP, Community Relations & External Affairs
Mary Ollinger, Assistant, Business & Finance
Bill McCarthy, Legal Counsel

Public: None

1. Welcome & Introductions

Sandy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Wentworth Campus Master Plan

As an update on Campus Master Plan activities since the June 11, 2008 Task Force Meeting, Sandy summarized the June 14, 2008 open neighborhood meeting held at the Mission Church. Sandy thanked the Task Force members who had attended the meeting for their helpful comments and questions. Sandy noted that the purposes of the neighborhood meeting were: (1) to provide the broader community with an overview of Wentworth's Campus Master Plan efforts to date; and (2) to enable Goody Clancy / Perkins+Will to obtain input from residents other than Task Force Members. Sandy then called upon Amy Kohn of GC/PW to make a presentation on Campus Master Plan.

Amy used a PowerPoint presentation to give an overview of the Campus Master Plan and the objectives of each phase of the Plan: Information Gathering; Analysis; Investigation of Development Alternatives; and Development of Plans. She noted that the June 14th neighborhood meeting was valuable to Wentworth and the GC/PW team in that the input received helped to provide the foundation for developing draft Master Plan alternatives. Amy then summarized the comments offered at the neighborhood meeting, especially those that focused on how the Wentworth campus

and its facilities might relate more closely to the surrounding neighborhoods and their residents.

Next Amy proceeded to describe GC/PW's ongoing efforts to conduct assessments of Wentworth's buildings, as well as to provide multiple opportunities for members of the Wentworth community, neighborhood residents and others to give input. She also identified the planning principles by which GC/PW is being guided in their development and evaluation of alternative master plan scenarios. The key principles are: Responding to existing and new facilities needs; Exploring partnership and shared-use opportunities; Master planning to enhance the image of the Wentworth campus; Developing a land use strategy aimed at determining the best locations for facilities and other campus improvements; Addressing campus edges and access points; Improving campus circulation and connections; and Addressing transportation-related needs resulting from displacement of existing parking facilities.

At this point in the meeting, Sheneal asked whose issue was it that prompted the studying of the campus "edges", as she was not entirely familiar with all of the current edges. Amy responded that it was being studied as an issue of importance to both Wentworth students and neighborhood residents. Jimmie suggested that a tour of the campus might be helpful to see exactly where the campus and the neighborhoods meet.

Amy then continued with her presentation on the Campus Master Plan. She noted the distinction between "instructional" and "non-instructional" spaces on the campus as well as the need for modernizing existing instructional spaces, the desirability of consolidating spaces by academic departments, and the need for non-instructional facilities to support Wentworth's increasingly on-campus student population. She also discussed various planning "assumptions" which Wentworth and GC/PW are testing, including the replacement of certain older, inefficient facilities (e.g., Edwards and Rodgers Hall), the acquisition of other existing buildings (e.g., the Huntington Ave. Fire Station), and developing new facilities where surface parking lots presently exist (e.g., the West Lot and the Parker Street Lots).

With the needs analysis, planning principles and assumptions as "criteria" for developing Master Plan alternatives, Amy proceeded to use graphics and campus plans to guide the attendees through three (3) alternative Master Plan scenarios identified as follows: Alternative #1: "WIT Main Street"; Alternative #2: "WIT's Urban Greenway"; and Alternative #3: "WIT's Huntington Presence". (Please see the attached plans and graphics depicting each of the alternative scenarios.

Comments of Task Force Members in response to Amy's presentation were as follows:

- Sheneal asked about whether, in connection with a new recreational facility, replacement parking would be constructed underground. Amy responded that that yes, if the field is relocated, they would be looking at replacing Parker Street

parking beneath the field, although they may run into limits on how much can be put there given the expense.

- In connection with relocating the Sweeney Field facilities to the Parker Street lots area, Matilda and Adeline suggested that Wentworth consider moving the facility closer to the Mindoro Street/Orange Line tracks end of the lots to minimize possible noise effects.
- Jimmie noted the relationship between the re-use of Sweeney Field and the redevelopment and use of the Parker Street Lots. She also expressed the desire to see “beautiful new” buildings along Huntington Ave., especially in the area of Sweeney Field.
- Matilda voiced support for Alternative #3 given the replacement of the former Boston Trade School Building with a recreational facility.
- David Dixon mentioned the potential for tying in the Parcel 25 development and the Mission Main and Alice Hayward Taylor neighborhoods under Alternative #3.
- 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.

3. Other Updates

David Wahlstrom briefly updated the Task Force on other projects presently underway.

a. Parker Street Crosswalk

Dave mentioned the neck down, crosswalk and signage improvements were underway and should be completed soon. The result will be increased pedestrian safety for both Wentworth students and neighborhood residents.

b. 525 & 634 Huntington Open Space Projects

Dave noted that the BRA had issued certificates of consistency for the 525 & 634 Huntington Open Space Projects (approved by the BRA Board last summer). Concerning the 525 Huntington Ave site (corner of Louis Prang St.), Dave also noted that contaminated subsurface soils were being excavated, and the

improvements to the 634 Huntington site were to begin within days of the Task Force meeting.

4. Other Business

a. Annual Greek Festival

Sandy handed out fliers to the attendees noting the September 5-7 Festival to be held at Cathedral's Brookline facility.

b. There was no other business to report.

5. Schedule Next Task Force Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8th in the Faculty/Staff Lounge. Dinner will be available at 5:30pm and the meeting will begin at 6pm

The meeting ended at approximately 7:35pm.