

**WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IMPNF
BRA PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009**

MINUTES

Task Force: Robert Chambers, Matilda Drayton, Pat Flaherty, Judie Mercer, Sheneal Parker, Marta Rivera

Wentworth: Jamie Kelly, Director, Public Affairs
John Heinstadt, Vice President, Business & Finance
Mary Ollinger, Executive Assistant, Business & Finance
Sandy Pascal, Associate VP, Community Relations & External Affairs
David A. Wahlstrom, Associate Vice President, Business
Dick Towle, Master Plan Consultant (Fallon Towle Associates)

Guests/Public: Kelsey Correia, Representative Sanchez's Office
Will Onuoha, Mayor's Office
Joe Pearce, Cushman & Wakefield
Allison Pultinas
Samantha Roy, Representative Sanchez's Office
Jesse Savino, Boston City Council
Katelyn Sullivan, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Ted Schwartzberg, BRA Planning

Katelyn Sullivan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She noted that the Task Force had last convened at the BRA public meeting on May 13th. She reminded everyone that Wentworth filed its Institutional Master Plan Notification Form (IMPNF) on April 6th, with the traditional 30-day comment period. The BRA put together the Scoping Determination, and Wentworth had taken the summer to review the document and reassess their needs, given the state of the economy. She added that the purpose of the meeting tonight was to bring everyone back together after the summer for updates and to talk about the schedule.

Dick noted that, based on the original schedule, the expectation would be to receive a big IMP book from Wentworth at this meeting. However, John and others at Wentworth thought it was important to take some time to reassess priorities and wait to see what happened with enrollment numbers and the economy. Thus, Wentworth has not started writing the IMP and the new plan is to submit the IMP to the BRA in January 2010 (*see attached schedule*). Dick added that Wentworth's Fall enrollment numbers are good – 2,830. He explained that this is approximately 30 less than last fall's enrollment, which was the number reflected in the IMPNF.

Dick moved onto the schedule, and noted that our usual meeting time (the 2nd Wednesday of the month) fell on Veteran's Day. Because of this, he suggested we meet that following Wednesday, November 18th. He noted that, depending on the timing of the transportation consultants, we might also need to meet on December 9th to present the studies and/or to address any follow up issues that may arise at the November 18th meeting.

Dick said that part of what Wentworth is planning to present includes massing studies for the soccer field and the new dormitory. Dick added that the new dormitory will be *six* stories, explaining that nine stories had been considered but another viable partner was willing to

collaborate. A task force member asked at which meeting the parking garage massing study would be presented, and Dick explained that the hope was the November 18th meeting.

Dick explained that there had been one small change in the IMPNF since the Task Force's last meeting – the BRA suggested that the Ira Allen addition be included as a proposed future project. One of the task force members asked for clarification. Dick explained that a project over 20k SF needs to be included in the IMP as a proposed future project. While the addition is below that threshold, it is very close; the BRA suggested that, as a precaution, it be covered within the scope of the IMP should any issues arise.

Dick noted that students who are admitted this cycle (entering Fall 2010) will be the first class required to live on campus as sophomores (Fall 2011). He explained that Wentworth is not leasing beds to Emmanuel this year, only to MCPHS (165 beds), and that those would be eliminated over the next couple years. He noted that the goal is to use those beds we are currently leasing plus the beds being proposed in the new dorm (270 beds) to give Wentworth the capacity to house all students living in the neighborhood. Because of the hard work by the Housing Office and Annamaria's people in Student Affairs, retention of sophomores and juniors in housing had increased roughly 10%.

Dick explained that there were a couple additional changes to the IMP. He noted that, because of the economy, Wentworth would not be filing simultaneously for the campus center project. A task force member asked if the renovations would still be pursued, and Dick replied that renovations would proceed at a rate of approximately \$1 to 2 million per year.

Dick reported that the second change was related to the potential development of the Sweeney parcel. He explained that Wentworth would not be seeking any approvals for that parcel as part of the IMP, adding that it will be referred to as a "potential future project." He added that it will be subject to further discussion with Task Force and will be handled in another separate process outside the master plan. A task force member asked if that would be considered in the transportation studies. Dick responded that there would likely be build/no-build data, adding that the studies will focus on the proposed projects.

Dick asked if there were any questions or comments about the schedule. With a number of late arrivals, Sandy asked Dick do a quick recap of what had been covered thus far in the meeting.

As far as scheduling, Dick asked if the Task Force would be available to meet on November 18th, as the usual meeting date falls on Veteran's Day. The Task Force agreed that November 18th would work. Dick explained that the goal would be to have all updates ready for the 18th, but asked members to hold December 9th in case the study is delayed or we need another meeting to address any follow up issues or questions.

A member of the public asked, in relation to the transportation study, whether Wentworth is working with the Urban Ring on interim options. Dick explained that our transportation consultants are in communication with the MBTA and are keeping their study consistent with long range and temporary plans. The member of the public asked about Wentworth's position as far as widening the road, and Dick noted that the Urban Ring is really a "moving target" and reiterated that our transportation consultants were working with the Urban Ring.

With no further questions, Katelyn wrapped up the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30pm.