

Minutes

Boylston Street Corridor
Public Participation Subcommittee
March 19, 2021 10:00 AM

Subcommittee members present (Y/N):

Rachna Balakrishna	Y
Wendy Friedman	Y*
Wendy Machmuller	Y
John VanScoyoc	Y

Staff: Kara Brewton

Meeting materials: 3/19/21 agenda; 3/5/21 minutes; summary of survey responses through 3-14-21

Kara Brewton opened the meeting, announced that the meeting was being held remotely due to COVID, checked that all members audio systems were working, and announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Minutes

The 3/5/21 Public Participation Subcommittee meeting minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote (RB, WM, JVS).

[*Wendy Friedman joined the meeting.]

In reviewing the previous to-dos listed in the minutes, Rachna Balakrishna agreed that she could assist in networking to reach someone from the Dunkin Donuts corporate office as one of the property owner interviews we are conducting. Other items still to be completed include:

- Mock-up of business card style information about the Committee (Wendy M.)
- Identify dates for potential meetings & listening sessions (everyone); Kara will send around a spreadsheet of various outreach groups already identified on google so that people can sign up for tracking down different groups and assessing whether there are already events scheduled that we can join
- Get contacts from Chris Dempsey for everyone that he spoke with about the bus lane pilot project (Wendy M.)

Other discussion points included:

- The likely limiting factor for scheduling neighborhood forums in May & June will be getting some massing and specific guideline development from the Urban Design group.
- To help the Committee stay on top of upcoming or potential developments planned between now and Fall Town Meeting, Kara will ask Preservation staff to keep us in the loop of any demolition applications.
- Wendy M. offered to start drafting a summary of where the Committee is at, and maybe that could be combined with someone from the Urban Design Subcommittee. This summary would be useful to post and refer people to as we conduct more property owner interviews, etc. This would also be helpful as residents reach out to us and want to know "what is being proposed".

Even though nothing has been proposed yet, we could have a summary of discussion leanings to date.

- A development moratorium would require Town Meeting vote, and because we're aiming towards Fall Town Meeting to make changes, this is likely not needed as an interim step.

Survey Results Discussion

- For Monday's full Committee meeting, Kara will just show the summary slides and a couple demographic slides. We can add any slides that Wendy F. is able to prepare, even last minute, as she pulls together preliminary analysis and breakdown on responses by survey respondent type.
- At a high level, beautification topics like adding more trees seems to be a frequent top priority, as well as that most people's indication that they want to stay in the corridor.
- May be a thread that people are more interested in off-street parking than on-street parking in the future

Additional discussion resulted in the following take-aways:

- Kara will be giving a summary of the anticipated work that Toole Design will do to further the concept plans for Route 9 on Monday's full Committee meeting
- Wendy M. will touch base with Reps. Vitolo and Elugardo to join us when Toole Design kicks off their work with the Committee (and copy our other Reps at the same time)
- For now, we will be planning for zoom platform meetings with neighborhood associations and community groups, taking cues from them about when in-person meetings might return later this summer
- Next meeting will be April 2nd at 10 am

Meeting ended at approximately 10:45 am.