

NOTES FROM STEP MEETING 15 October 2007

October 15, 2007, 7-9 PM

At Visiting Nurse Assisted Living Center 259 Lowell Street

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Karen Molloy, Steve Mulder, Andrea Yakovakis, Jim McGinniss, Kristi Chase, Naomi Slagowski, Lilly Shoup, Paul Morgan

Notes by Karen Molloy

1. **Green Line updates**

At recent Boston MPO meeting it was mentioned that 6 local projects are vying for New Starts Funding: Green Line Extension (supposedly #1 priority), Silver Line, Urban Ring, and 3 others.

2. **Community Path Park**

Karen reported on a community meeting held at the VNA 10 October to discuss plans for the City to build the Community Path Park by June 2008. Steve Winslow facilitated the meeting. The park is on property donated to the City by Cambridge Health Alliance. Due to a deadline of a large donation to the project, the park will be built by next June 30th. The park will be alongside the Community Path, and potentially---depending on where the Lowell St station is located --will be enroute to the Green Line station as well. Several suggestions from attendees included:

Having native plants/flowers planted at the site, both for supporting local wildlife and to support the local environment.

Sufficient lighting at night to encourage use of the path/park at night and minimize the opportunity for crime.

Have benches designed/built at the site as public art. Perhaps a selection overseen by the Somerville Arts Council.

Having a picnic table, trash barrels at the site.

Having a historic plaque denoting that the park is the site of the former Somerville Junction rail station.

Contacting all abutters to the park. (The meeting was attended by only one abutter.)

3. **Planning for STEP fall fundraiser**

Karen reported that the Taza Chocolate's chocolate-tasting fundraiser for STEP will be held at Bloc 11 on 25 October, 6:30-9pm. Bloc 11 is located in Union Sq, and is scheduled to open in early October. Mark Ostrander is working on the promotional flyer.

We'll get the word out via email, listservs and posting on community bulletin boards. We'll also do a snail mail mailing of the flyer to the 200 + snail mailing list we have.

Other PR tasks identified: Get announcement into Union Sq Main Streets newsletter, D Provost's newsletter, Somerville Journal

Event set-up tasks identified: have aerial shots of the proposed Green Lines, to generate

conversation and act as “teaser” to discussions/community meetings STEP will hold next year regarding station siting and design.

We'll need a table to sign in, with: cash box for accepting payment, sign -up for listserv brochures, t-shirts, (buttons?),....

We need 2 easels for: an enlarged aerial view of where the extensions would be, STEP map of possible locations

Donation – proposed \$25.00 fee. Will offer each visitor a button.

Discussion ensued about offering membership, but membership beyond being on the listserv is nebulous; the right to “vote” at meetings does not have much bearing right now. Once we become 501c3 we will need to be more formal about the notion of membership.

For a basket with Taza Chocolate bar, STEP t-shirt, maybe items from Ricky's, Capone's? Should we have a guest speaker? Or music? Should we give awards to transportation heroes?

Ellin, Karen, Steve, maybe others will meet at Bloc 11 Tuesday evening to firm up some logistics details.

4. Urban Ring

Wig reported that planning the Urban Ring Phase 2 is fast-moving; there will be public meetings held in Dec.(Urban Ring meetings are held at the Transposition Bldg or 75 State Street.) Wig is currently the only one from Somerville attending Urban Ring meetings.) Somerville could benefit from a plan that involves linking up to Harvard and Longwood Medical Ctr.(from Innerbelt and/or Sullivan Sq). A lot of people commute from Somerville to Harvard and Longwood Medical Ctr. Planning for the Urban Ring in Somerville could be the city's chance to connect to the economic drivers in Boston metro area: medical, biotech, etc. (Visuals of routes under consideration were passed around.)

5. Avi Green's offer for office space and intern help

Avi Green has generously offered have a bit of office space at MassVOTE in downtown Boston for STEP's use. Right now MassVOTE has some very talented interns, busy until after the elections, but available afterward to do some work for STEP (for writing grant applications, etc.).

We discussed Avi's offer (Avi himself was not present at the meeting). STEP operates mostly virtually; our need for physical space apart from meetings lies mostly in storage of our materials. We do however have a great need for intern help

Next STEP meeting: 19 November 7pm location TBA