

Perry and Lincoln Park Neighborhood ResiStat Meeting Notes

Monday, March 17, 2008

City Officials Present:

Maryann Heuston, Ward 2 Alderman

Stephanie Hirsch, SomerStat Director

Capt. John O'Connor, Somerville Police Department

Officer Jim McNally, Somerville Police Department -- contact him anytime with issues:

jmcnally@police.somerville.ma.us - 617-625-1600 ext.7268

Ethan Field, ResiStat Analyst

Updates:

Ethan Field gave updates on issues raised at previous meetings. (See presentation)

- **Beacon Street:** A resident requested that when Beacon Street is redone, it should include sidewalks on both sides of the road. The resident observed that there is no sidewalk on the segment of the road that runs along the Cambridge Line by the A.A.A.S. Another resident was concerned that the number of available parking spaces are decreasing as the City's increases enforcement of the "No parking within 20 feet of an intersection" State law. This resident recommended that parking issues be addressed with the Beacon Street redesign.
- **Elmer Bumpus Bridge:** Multiple residents reported a problem with the Elmer Bumpus Bridge (Washington Street) over the railroad tracks by the school. Residents said they observed the concrete sidewalk starting to crumble in the section closest to the school, exposing rebar. These residents were very concerned that it could be a hazard to pedestrians. City Officials responded that while it is a State-managed bridge, the City would immediately look at the possibility of temporary fixes that could be put in place quickly while waiting for repair.
- **Roads and Sidewalks:** A resident said that the sidewalk surface on Washington Street near Bowdoin had been seriously worn away. After the meeting, Bowdoin and Fremont Avenue residents said that they were upset that their streets had not been selected for being repaved, and would like them repaved soon.
- **Cleaning and Maintenance:** In response to the issue of litter in parks, residents wondered if there were sufficient trash barrels in the parks. A few residents expressed a feeling that the City had finished very nice projects in the neighborhood in the past year (Perry Park and the Argenziano School) but were concerned that those projects were not properly being maintained. Residents mentioned leaves in the park that had not been cleared, graffiti on the school, and drainage problems on the school soccer field.
- **Dogs in Lincoln Park:** A few residents raised the question of whether part of Lincoln Park could be set aside for an off-leash space, or if the park could allow dogs on-leash, or if certain hours could be set aside for off-leash time. Others expressed safety concerns about the presence of off-leash dogs in areas where dogs are not allowed.
- **Reserved Parking:** After the meeting, a resident commented that it seems harder than it used to be get guest parking permits, or reserved parking spots for when the resident is hosting parties. The resident said in years past, they could be ordered by phone; now residents have to go in person to the Traffic and Parking building.

Resident Priorities:

Residents were each given five votes to distribute any way they wished between the options described in the presentation, and added new ones not mentioned in the presentation.

Next Steps for City Staff:

These issues will be combined with other neighborhoods' priorities to create a resident budget priorities report. Issues that emerge as the highest neighborhood or City-wide priorities will inform the City Departments as they set their goals for the upcoming year. These departmental goals determine how each department prioritizes its staff time and budget. Items originating with this ResiStat group are in **bold**.

Issue	Votes
Improving Washington Street surface and sidewalks	11
Elmer Bumpus Bridge Sidewalk repair	11
More off-leash dog areas in City	11
Re-examine dog policy in Lincoln Park	9
Preventative Maintenance for Parks and Trees	8
Citywide tree inventory and expanding number of trees by 20%	6
Implementing community policing program	5
Improving pedestrian usability of Dane Street - Dane Ave intersection	5
Improving Beacon Street surface	5
Online credit card payment services for city bills and transactions	4
Senior Housing developments	3
Affordable housing developments	3
Purchasing reduced-emission and alternate fuel City vehicles	2
Renovating City parks	2
Safe-START pedestrian improvements	2
Weekend hours at our branch libraries	2
Litter collection in parks on weekends	2
Assembly Square traffic mitigation	1
East Somerville Community School	1
Small Business micro-loans and storefront renovation grants.	1
Dedicated computer kiosks in public buildings	1
New city website and improved calendar of city events	1
Citywide Wi-Fi	1
Getting a monthly bulletin of all City events	1
Lincoln Park Field drainage	1
Magoun Square traffic/pedestrian renovations	0
Re-zoning Union Square	0
Central welcome desk at City Hall	0
Take over management of State-run facilities	0
Making info about tenant's rights more available to renters.	0

Issues raised at meeting, but not voted on:

- Examine change in policy regarding temporary visitor permits and parking spaces.
- Look into including Bowdoin and Fremont Avenue on next year's list of streets for repaving.