

Magoun Square ResiStat Meeting Notes

May 21, 2008

City Officials Present:

John O'Connor, Captain, Somerville Police Department

Stephanie Hirsch, SomerStat Director

Hai Tiet, SomerStat Junior Analyst

Ward 5 Alderman Sean O'Donovan had a commitment with the Board of Aldermen and the School Committee and sent his regrets.

Magoun Square, Trum Field House, MaxPak, and Community Path/Green Line:

Stephanie Hirsch gave an update on planned State-managed renovations for Magoun Square, City-managed renovations of the Trum Field House, MaxPak, and MA Executive Office of Transportation (EOT)'s plans for the Community Path and Green Line extension. (See presentation)

- **Magoun Square:** A resident was concerned over the exact start date of renovations. *Follow-Up:* The exact start date is not yet established and will not likely be established for several months, due to the multi-step design review process described in the presentation. This project is entirely managed by Mass Highway. The city has no control over the start date; we can only continue to call daily and get updates, which we are doing. We will continue to pass along information to residents as we learn it.
- **Trum Field House:** A resident praised the progress of the renovation and stated that many residents were pleased that the monument that was previously at the field was brought back. A resident asked when the field's facilities (i.e. restrooms) will be open, the hours of operations, and who will manage the facilities. Stephanie Hirsch said she will follow-up with the matter and inform the group of her findings. We are not yet sure of the hours of the restrooms, but will determine this prior to the ribbon cutting.
- **Other Ward 5 Parks:** A resident asked what the specific name would be for the new park between Central Street and Woodbine Street park. *Follow Up:* The Parks Department's working name for the park is "The Park at Somerville Junction." However, the city's Veterans Commission on Monuments, Memorials and Dedications needs to approve all park dedications and re-dedications. Also Construction on **Albion Park** is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2009, to be completed by the following fall. Additional community meetings for feedback about preliminary Albion Park designs will be held in Sept. and Nov. 2008.
- **MaxPak/KSS Realty:** A resident requested for the exact schedule of the demolition for the project. The same resident also asked if the contractors filed and received all the proper permits of the project. *Follow Up:* The presentation accurately describes the current stage in the process – The developer (KSS Realty) has received preliminary approval for the Master Plan. Next, KSS will need to receive Special Permits with Site Plan Review ("SPSRs") for more detailed plans for each phase of the project. Only after those specific plans are approved and applicable conditions are met can KSS be issued building permits. The phasing of construction is prescribed by the Development Covenant between the City and the Developer (and has been incorporated into the Master Plan approval). While the SPSR approval cannot compel demolition of the existing structures, it will establish prerequisites for the issuance of

demolition, construction, and occupancy permits. More details are available on the link listed in the presentation.

- Green Line and Community Path:** A resident asked for clarification on how the Green Line (in particular, the proposed Lowell Street Station) will affect the Community Path, and was also concerned that there is not enough room in the rail right-of-way east of Lowell Street for the Commuter Rail track, the Green Line tracks, and the Community Path. *Follow-Up:* The Lowell Street Station itself should not affect the Community Path at all, because they are in different MBTA rights-of-way. However, as described in the presentation, the State EOT is mandated to ensure that room for the Community Path is included in their Green Line designs. Though the designs are not yet finalized, all past proposals called for the Path to rise out of the MBTA right-of-way and up to residential grade east of Lowell Street. Once the EOT designs are complete and approved, the city can begin design and construction of the Community Path extension. The Path would likely be very close to the Gilman Square Station, and possibly other stations on the way towards Lechmere.

Budget—Resources/Revenues, Expenses, Program-based Budget, Resident Report, Timeline, and Priorities:

Stephanie Hirsch gave an overview of the City’s budgeting process (Resources/Revenues, Expenses, Program-based Budget, Resident Report, Timeline, and Priorities) and how residents can be involved in the process. The priorities mentioned by residents will be considered for the Resident Report section of the City’s FY09 budget. (See presentation)

- A resident asked what items were included in the “Fines & Forfeits” of the City’s revenues sources (slide #10 in the presentation). A resident also asked what items were included in the “Other Employee Benefits” of the City’s revenues sources (slide #13). Stephanie Hirsch said that the City’s budget in-detail is available online, and if anyone had any questions about any budget items, that they should refer to the online document. Stephanie Hirsch also stated that if any resident still had any questions, they can contact her directly. *Follow-up:* The breakdown of projected “Fines & Forfeits” and projected “Other Employee Benefits” based upon the FY08 City budget is listed at right.

See also:

http://www.ci.somerville.ma.us/CoS_Content/documents/fo rms/FinalBudget6.4.07_Reduced.pdf

Fines & Forfeits	
Item	\$\$\$
Towing Charges	\$ 50,000.00
Parking Fines	\$6,730,383.00
Parking Fines Surcharge	\$ 108,000.00
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	\$ 66,000.00
Court Fines	\$ 17,000.00
Moving Violations	\$ 300,000.00
Restitution	\$ 4,000.00
Tobacco Fines	\$ 500.00
Library Fines	\$ 17,000.00
Ordinance Violations	\$ 69,660.00
Landcourt/Recording Fines	\$ 4,000.00
Chapter 148A, Sec. 5	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL	\$7,369,543.00
Other Employee Benefits	
Item	\$\$\$
Salary Contingency	\$4,061,180.00
Life Insurance	\$ 105,000.00
Worker's Compensation	\$ 893,319.00
Unemployment Compensation	\$ 130,000.00
TOTAL	\$5,189,499.00

Resident Priorities:

- A resident raised concern on the MBTA #89 bus route. The resident stated that he would like to see more frequent bus routes to and from the Clarendon Hill route. The resident stated that if it were not possible that he would like an explanation on the reasons why.
- A resident requested that the MBTA move the bus stop that was previously located in front of the Dunkin Donuts on Broadway towards Trum Park be reinstated and provided with a bus shelter.
- A resident raised concern over the street lanes on Broadway near the now-empty lot that was Star Market. The resident stated that there was confusion if the road was meant to be a one-lane or two-lane road and would like to see clarifying adjustments made to the road.
- A resident requested that the Police Department monitor the Magoun Square Parking lot for illegal parking activity.
- A resident requested that the Police Department monitor Fennel Street during the night of July 4th celebrations for any potential illegal activity. Captain O'Connor responded to the resident and will ensure Magoun Square will be monitored during that night.
- A resident raised concern over the trash seen along Cedar Street opposite the current end of the bike path, and were concerned that it might be related to local businesses. Stephanie Hirsch/Captain O'Connor stated that they will inform the Neighborhood Impact Team (NIT) of the situation.
- A resident raised concern over potential illegal activity at a property on Wilton Street. Captain O'Connor will look into this matter.

Residents were each given five votes to distribute any way they wished between the options described in the presentation, and added new ones (above) not mentioned in the presentation. 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, budget, and seeking outside funding.

Votes	Rank	Issue
7	1	Push State to keep Green Line extension on schedule
6	2	Continue process to extend the community path
5	3	Make arrangements with MBTA to clear brush from future community path right-of-way until MaxPak site constuction begins
4	4	Push MBTA to extend the hours that the 89 bus stops in Davis Square past 7PM.
3	5	Hold Mass Highway to complete Magoun Square renovations on schedule
2	6	Place emergency call boxes on Community Path
2	6	Place numbers on light posts on Community Path so residents can easily identify them when calling 311 to report needed repairs.
1	8	Address difficulty in exiting the Magoun Square parking lot due to illegal parking on Medford Street next to CVS, especially on weekends.
0		Design and begin construction on Somerville Junction Park, complete with its portion of the Community Path

Next Steps for City Staff:

- Continue to keep residents informed of the latest information about Magoun Square renovations as it becomes available from Mass Highway.
- Bring neighborhood-specific crime data and data comparing wards and neighborhoods to the next meeting. In particular, report on whether or not there have been housebreaks on Alpine Street.
- Inform the NIT team of trash issues on Cedar Street.
- Review Magoun Square residents' priorities for the City in FY09 and incorporate them in the City's budget.
- Determine the availability of the Trum restrooms to the public and share with group.
- Provide the appropriate links to MA Department of Revenues (DOR) to residents that inquired about revenue sources. The database is on the Mass.gov website at:
<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=dortopic&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Local+Officials&L2=Municipal+Data+and+Financial+Management&sid=Ador>
- Address difficulty in exiting the Magoun Square parking lot due to illegal double-parking on Medford Street next to CVS, especially on weekends.

Next Steps for Residents:

- Keep the Police informed by inviting community police to attend neighborhood gatherings. Also, use 311 or the anonymous tip line to share information with police.
- Inform new neighbors about key concerns or things to watch out for in the neighborhood.
- Keep an eye on empty homes in the neighborhood and report any signs of unexpected activity to police.
- Call 311 if they have any questions/concerns or report any concerns other residents might have.