

Ward 2 Fall ResiStat Meeting Notes

Monday, October 28th, 2008

Officials Present:

- Joe Curtatone, Mayor
- Maryann Heuston, Ward 2 Alderman
- Teresa Cardoso, Ward 2 School Committee Representative
- Pat Jehlen, State Senator, Second Middlesex District
- Tony Holloway, Somerville Police Chief
- Paul Upton, Somerville Deputy Police Chief
- Michael Devereaux, Somerville Police Captain
- Rob May, Director of Economic Development, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
- Madeleine Masters, Director of Planning, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
- James Kotzuba, Director of Traffic and Parking
- Terry Smith, City Traffic Engineer
- Stephanie Hirsch, Director of SomerStat

Updates on Issues from Previous Meetings:

After introductions of all attendees, updates were provided on the following topics. Please see the accompanying presentation for more information on these topics:

- Union Square Rezoning
- Green Line Extension Planning
- Somerville Ave Reconstruction
- 311 Call Trends
- Park Maintenance and Use Policies
- Traffic Conditions at Key Intersections
- Public Safety

Break-Out Sessions:

The following four breakout discussions were convened:

Public Safety

- Speeding: Residents expressed concern about the speed of traffic on Washington Street and about the speed of buses.
- Reporting Incidents: The Chief encouraged residents to call 911 for any emergency and to call 311 for any quality of life issue. Residents may also contact their neighborhood police officer, James McNally, for any concerns they would like to discuss. Officer McNally e-mail address is jmcnally@police.somerville.ma.us. The Chief emphasized the residents should report all incidents.

Development Issues

- 44 Park Street: A resident expressed concern about increased development that may be caused by the proposed development at 44 Park Street.
- Union Square Rezoning: Residents asked quite a few questions about the Union Square rezoning and Green Line station planning processes. City officials provided explanations including on topics such as: two possible locations for stations in Union Square, discussion

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surrounding the possible location of an MBTA maintenance facility, and what the proposed zoning in Union Square allows for as compared to current zoning. For more information, the Mayor encouraged residents to attend EOT public meetings on the Green Line and to attend a meeting regarding zoning that will be held 12/2.

Traffic and Parking

- Illegal Parking: Residents expressed concern about cars parking too close to the corner, which impedes turning and visibility.
- Need for Parking around Linden Street: A group of residents said that there is very little parking in the streets on and around Linden Street. They recognize the need to have sufficient space for emergency vehicles but hope the City can find alternative places to park if street parking need to be eliminated. This might become even more of a problem during a snow emergency. Alderman Heuston said that she would work with residents to try to arrange an agreement for night parking with owners of nearby lots.
- Concord and Springfield Intersection: The City's traffic engineer solicited input from residents on a proposal to change the intersection of Concord, Springfield, and Newton Streets (see presentation). The next steps will be to hold meetings with abutters and to determine a source of funding for the project.
- Truck Traffic: Residents expressed concern about truck traffic and noise early in the morning and late at night. The City will investigate what truck restrictions apply to the area and how the City could enforce them.
- Somerville Ave: A resident said it is hard to know where exactly to drive on Somerville Ave. The Chief said he would try to communicate this to detail officers on Somerville Ave and to the contractors so that there can be better demarcation of temporary lanes.
- Parking in Union Square: Residents were concerned about how the City might accommodate a demand for more parking with rezoning of Union Square and with the Green Line extension.

Other Issues

- Dog Policies: Residents expressed frustration with off-leash dogs in parks and said there should be more enforcement. Others expressed a need for more off-leash parks. One resident asked for a breakdown of off-leash calls by park, time of day, etc.
- Access to Field: A resident said that neighbors would like to have access to the locked soccer field at Lincoln Park so that they can use it for recreation.
- Properzi Way: A resident expressed a wish to change the name of Properzi way back to Vine Street for the section of Properzi Way that is south of the railroad tracks, since the two streets do not meet up.
- Christmas Decorations: A resident said that he hopes the City will decorate Somerville Ave from Union Square to McGrath highway with holiday decorations.