

Ward 5 Fall ResiStat Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 28th, 2008

Officials Present:

- Joe Curtatone, Mayor
- Sean T. O'Donovan Ward 5 Alderman
- Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 School Committee Member
- Tony Holloway, Somerville Police Chief
- Paul Upton, Somerville Deputy Police Chief
- George Landers, Superintendent of Inspectional Services
- Jessie Baker, Aide to Mayor Curtatone
- 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:

- Park-Related Projects: Somerville Junction Park, Albion Park
- Development Projects: Green Line planning, Magoun Square improvements, MaxPak site development
- 311 Call Trends
- Public Safety

Break-Out Sessions:

The following three breakout discussions were convened:

Public Safety

- Bike Path: A resident asked about whether or not the City plans to install call boxes on the bike path. The Chief reported that he is investigating the feasibility of installing call boxes. He said that he walks the bike path every day, as does the Ward 5 Neighborhood Police Officer.
- 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, Scott Gamble, for any concerns they would like to discuss. Officer Gamble's e-mail address is sgamble@police.somerville.ma.us.

Development and Inspectional Services Issues

- Bike Path: Residents asked for an update on the status of the bike path extension. City officials said that they'd request an update from Steve Winslow and would forward this along to the group.
- Magoun Square: Residents expressed concern about open storefronts in Magoun Square. Residents also hoped to see design drawings for the Magoun Square reconstruction.
- Vacant Property: Residents asked about the vacant property at Trull and Medford, which has been empty for almost four years. City officials reported that there has been quite a long history on the property. Initially, the City stopped work on the property because work being done did not meet building plans submitted. Since then, with ongoing communication to the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, the property owner and now his heirs have been working with to complete construction.

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- MaxPak Demolition: A resident requested an update on how demolition would occur at the MaxPak site and expressed concern about asbestos in the building.
- Armory: A resident requested an update on when the Armory would open. City Officials said that it is very close to having a certificate of occupancy.
- Albion Park Design: A resident asked it if is still possible to comment on Albion Park. City officials said yes it's possible and please send comments ASAP to Ellen Schneider at eschneider@somervillema.gov.

Other Issues

- Central Street Property: Residents expressed concern about quality of life issues for neighbors of a property on Central Street. City officials encouraged residents to contact 311 for any quality of life reports, so that the Police and Inspectional Services can act on addressing the complaints.
- 89 Bus Route: A resident said that he is continuing to be frustrated with there not being adequate bus service from Davis Square to Magoun Square, especially after the 89 bus stops running after 7:00 p.m. He said he wishes that the 89 could be combined with the Clarendon Hills bus. City officials said they would ask the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development how the City could lobby the MBTA on this issue.
- Parking: Residents raised concern about vehicles parking too close to the curb, which makes it hard to have a enough visibility to pull out into traffic from some side streets. Two intersections named were Broadway and Partridge and Medford and Glenwood. City officials encouraged residents to call 311 when they see any illegally parked car. Traffic and Parking will send out a parking control officer to issue tickets.
- Exotic Bird Shop: A resident expressed concerns about the operations of an exotic bird shop in Magoun Square.
- Trash Pick-up: A resident requested having City-issued bins used for trash and requested having covered recycling bins, so that trash doesn't blow out of bins. City officials said that new, covered recycling bins may be included in the new trash hauling contract, which will be put out to bid soon.
- Parking Tickets around Healey School: A resident requested that parking ticket enforcement for street cleaning on streets near the Healey School be moved back so that parents can park to drop off their children without being ticketed.