

Minutes

Boylston Street Corridor
Public Participation Subcommittee
February 19, 2021 10:00 AM

Subcommittee members present (Y/N):

Rachna Balakrishna	Y
Wendy Friedman	Y
Wendy Machmuller	Y
John VanScoyoc	Y

Staff: Kara Brewton

Meeting materials: 2/19/21 agenda, summary of survey results to date, demographic slides 2/19/21 (K. Brewton)

Kara Brewton opened the meeting. She reinforced that the survey data is important qualitatively, as we have access to what 120 more individuals are thinking, just as if they had made comments at a public meeting. However, the purpose of the survey was not to seek a statistical sample of the population that lives, works, uses the corridor. Even within the qualitative category, it is important to understand that the responses overrepresent 62-74 year olds, and underrepresent 25-49 year olds. Similarly, renters are underrepresented compared to property owners. And, responses overrepresented those that have lived here longer than 10 years and underrepresented those that have lived here less than 6 years.

Additional discussion resulted in the following take-aways:

- Committee members will look at .pdf of individual responses and make sure that individual emails and individual street addresses are blanked out so we can then post to website
- Wendy Friedman and Wendy Machmuller volunteered to study the data and pull out themes from the open response questions
- Kara Brewton will send Wendy Friedman a list of which questions were either or multiple responses & confirm no paper ballots were received
- There was discussion about potentially scheduling a second survey window (perhaps with different questions) later in the Committee's work
- General agreement that in lieu of a single open forum in May, to have smaller presentations, led by Committee members, at groups such as: the Pierce School community, Lincoln School community, Brook House, Village Way, High Street Apartments, Greater Point Neighborhood Association, High Street Hill Neighborhood Association, etc.
- As the timing of potential redevelopment of 10 Brookline Place and the Brookline Housing Authority property will require more intense public participation that likely will go beyond this committee's work, we should think about how to frame material we present to groups east of High Street differently
- Additionally, we may want to hold an in-person, socially distanced meeting on Cameron Street in April; this could be facilitated with identified Committee members having smaller discussions with those in attendance
- Wendy Machmuller will take some photos of project posters she's seen along the Muddy River, which we may want to replicate to some extent and hang at the Boylston Park fence, perhaps the construction fence on the corner of High & Boylston Street, and even Emerson Garden park.

- Wendy Machmuller will send a quick design for Boylston Street information cards (business card size) for Committee members to keep in their pockets and hand out to people in the area as they see appropriate
- Kara Brewton will get an update on the timeline of any refined estimated costs, interim and permanent, regarding the Davis Path footbridge
- Next meeting will be March 5th at 10 am
- Rachna Balakrishna will present an update of the Subcommittee to the next full Committee meeting

Meeting ended at approximately 11:20 am.