

**Symmes Advisory Committee Public Use Working Group
Meeting Minutes, 22 October 2001,
Town Hall Annex 1st Floor Conference Room**

Attending: Harris Band, Greg Blass, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Steve Frigand, Ellen Kushner, Ann LeRoy, LeRoy, Suzi Lubar, Linda Privitera (Vice Chair), Brian Rehrig (Chair), Sue Sheffler

Not Attending: Jim Marzilli, Denis Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Approve minutes of prior meeting

The minutes of the third meeting of the Symmes Advisory Committee (SAC) Public Use Working Group, held on 8 October, were approved.

Negotiations Update

Brian Rehrig reported that the town had commissioned an update on the Symmes property appraisal. With this updated information, expected later this week, the town is expected to renew negotiations with Lahey Health South.

Principles Statement

As a result of discussion of the Public Use Working Group's Recommendations on Policy and Planning Principles at the 18 October SAC meeting, Brian Rehrig presented a revised version of the document. The proposed revisions were discussed and approved by the Working Group.

Contact Lists of Organization & Opinion Leaders

Working Group members submitted their assigned lists of people and organizations in Arlington who represent special interests in public uses for the Symmes site. Ellen Kushner agreed to assemble the contact lists into a single data base and have it ready for the next Working Group meeting.

Continue Discussion of Broad Community Input Process

Members were briefed on the Community Outreach Working Group's projected plans for community charrettes and questionnaires. Concern was voiced over the use of an open-ended type of questionnaire for the general public. It was conceded that such a questionnaire has the potential to set up unrealistic expectations, and turn the process of selecting uses for the site into a popularity contest. The Group questioned how the questionnaire will be distributed and to whom, as well as what the intended results will be.

The Group concluded that the process of determining which options should be included on the questionnaire should be conducted in two parts. Lists of key contacts for particular special interest groups should first be compiled, and through those contacts an appropriate set of uses for each of the four subject matter Working Groups (Commercial Use, Medical Use, Public Use & Residential Use) should be selected. There was consensus that the Working Group should move forward on our development of use options for public uses.

Given the uncertainties of the negotiations, with no one knowing whether the town will be able to negotiate a purchase and sale agreement, it was suggested that a decision tree be developed to help everyone understand the process. Decision points, or triggers, such as a purchase and sale agreement, and the hiring of a project manager could be combined with a timeline to further define the work of the entire Committee.

Conversation shifted to the definition of appropriate uses for the Symmes site. Steve Frigand agreed to begin an evaluation of the appropriateness of categories of uses, using the Principles Statement, demographics and mega-trends as a framework.

Sue Sheffler presented a copy of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services Outdoor Recreation Urban Self-Help Funding guide. Brian Rehrig questioned whether the town would be able to take advantage of this funding for the Symmes site, due to incompatible time constraints.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday 12 November 2001 at 7:00 PM, with a location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Handouts

22 October Meeting Agenda

Symmes Public Use Working Group Draft Recommendations - revised to reflect comments of the SAC - 10/18/01

Open Space Contact List