

## **STEP annual meeting**

**April 13, 2009**

Visiting Nurses Association

In attendance: Steve Mulder, Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Jim McGinnis, Kristi Chase, Andrea Yakovakis, Naomi Slagowski, Ken Krause, Bob Nesson.

Updates and Announcements:

Museum of Science program: May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the evening.

There will be a Rail-Volution conference in Boston in the fall, and STEP has submitted a proposal to present at the conference.

EPA CARE grant work: Community Corridor Planning group will host a public meeting on Thursday, April 29 starting around 5:00 at the Argeziano School to provide a place for people that live near future Green Line stops to give input on land use around the new stations. There are two outreach workers in this group working for Groundwork Somerville doing house meetings in neighborhoods along the Green Line extension. The group has also been working with the city to update the assessor's maps to collect more land use information along the Green Line corridor.

CAFEH study: The grant application has been submitted for the study HEPA filter study in a subset of homes to see how they reduce indoor air pollution. A project manager has been chosen for the CAFEH study. They are looking for a background site, and the steering committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss this. The study will soon be hiring translators for Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cantonese, and Portuguese, about 15 hours a week. The random population sample will be brought into the study by going door to door to ask people, and participants will be at least 40 years old and cannot smoke.

Interns: Grant King got a grant to work with us, and we will contribute a portion of his salary. Alex Kaplan will probably also intern with us, and there might also be another intern that can work part time from Emerson.

Action Items:

501c(3) status: We were advised by an attorney for help obtaining 501c(3) status. He gave us suggestions for how to write the articles of organization, and we will need to vote on these changes later, and we might be able to do this over email. We do so much research and educational work, and we need to make this more prominent so that people know what we are doing. Andrea will continue to work with the attorney to update our Articles of Organization and Bylaws, and will ask for people to submit all of our educational activities and documentation of these activities to put together.

Website updates: There was a discussion on how to change the website to make it more searchable or indexed. Updates on the research work, presentations, and other information could be linked from the website, and an intern might be able to help with this over the summer. Maybe we could do a survey on the website to get feedback on what people like or would like to see on the site.

The people in attendance paid their \$10 dues. We wondered about seeking more dues through the listserve.

We held elections: Ellin Reisner was elected president, Andrea Yakovakis was elected treasurer, and Naomi Slagowski was elected secretary.

Student work: Wig has been working with MIT to get students to write theses this summer on land use and development in Somerville. Boston Architectural College will also continue to work with Somerville. If we have a few people working with us this summer, this might be a good reason to rent a small work space for the interns. There was a discussion about where we could get office space, and what this would involve/what we would need.

STEP Objectives for the upcoming year: People gave their opinions on where they would like to see STEP focus its efforts in the next year. In general, people were in favor of keeping transit a focus (rail and bus), along with community path with biking and walking overall, land use/green space planning, building and keeping a sense of community, and continuing to involve the community to raise the level of consciousness on these issues.

ArtBeat: We might have our own table at ArtBeat this year.

Green Line: Medford's Green Line Neighborhood Alliance will be hosting a Route 16 terminus charette.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 18th at 7:00pm at the Visiting Nurses Association Community Room.