

STEP meeting minutes
July 28, 2008
At Somerville Community Access Television

In Attendance: Ellin Reisner, Andrea Yakovakis, Naomi Slagowski, Karen Molloy, Wig Zamore, Kristi Chase, Steve Mulder, Jim McGinnis

The meeting had a lot of updates on developments in Somerville and things happening in STEP.

Mystic River films at the Museum of Science were well-attended.

ArtBeat was very encouraging, and there were a lot of opportunities to hear people's opinions and especially to talk to people about the Green Line Extension.

North Point Development – this will have to be decided before the New Starts funding because of the Lechmere alignment depending upon private vs. public location of the station.

Transportation funding is in bond bills, and it's unclear what has been gone through at this point.

Assembly Square – The draft Environmental Impact Report is out, and can be found at http://www.mysticview.org/docs/draft_eir/cdindex.pdf. Some highlights of options:

- Added park space along the river
- Community Path goes along the train right of way (keeping it off of the street for a while)
- Courtyard option with more natural light
- It should also be noted that a second head house for the new T station should be placed on the IKEA side of Assembly Square, not just near the other developments to encourage shopper ridership (40% of IKEA shoppers in Brooklyn come on public transportation)
- There are about 19,000 full time job equivalents in this Assembly Square development

There was some discussion about the need to set up a system for transparency and administration of the grants that STEP has received.

There was discussion about the location of a potential maintenance facility in Inner Belt. Yard 8 location is unacceptable, as it will negatively impact many people in Brickbottom and Cobble Hill, also future economic development potential in Inner Belt.

STEP will have a table at the Union Square Farmer's Market this year on September 6th.

Next meeting: August 25th from 7-9pm at the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) at 259 Lowell Street, in the Community Room.