

Minutes for West Village Neighborhood Association Meeting

DEC 14, 2023, 7-8:30 PM:

]> Boston Squares & Streets zoning & planning initiative

1. presentation by boston planning and development agency
 - a. Taylor Mayes- planning
 - b. Squares + streets launch next year – response to housing crisis. Develop mixed use, affordable housing plan.
 - c. Values – affordability, resilience, and equity
 - d. Zoning for squares and streets
 - i. Zoning reform – localized understanding.
 - ii. Zoning is varied and does not always represent equity
 - iii. Reduce need for variance – process that has been used overwhelmingly in Boston.
 - iv. Zoning code is 4,000 pages – make it easier to navigate
 - v. Regulatory obstacles prevent people from opening spaces or adding housing - zoning code is not updates when building code is.
 - vi. Focus on sustainable design and green building
 - vii. Community process for large projects – smaller projects (align with rules) will not need to go through community process
 - viii. Working on city wide zoning text amendment
 1. Written text of the zoning code.
 2. Setting rules
 - ix. Process
 1. Zoning text amendments will go to BDPA Board and Boston Zoning commission for approval.
 2. Text amendment released last Tuesday – public comment now. (<http://bostonplans.org/zoning4squares>)
 - x. Text amendment
 1. Modernize land uses
 - a. Add active uses (mixed use areas)
 2. Squares and streets zoning district
 - a. 5 zoning districts – new zoning options
 - b. Buckets that have their own rules associated
 - e. Local processes for Squares + streets
 - i. Comprehensive planning
 1. Planning with partnership with other city departments. Whole of city hall into equation.
 2. Focus on commercial centers – all within 5-10 minutes of transportation
 3. 6-9 month process.
 - ii. Zoning envelope is a starting point
 - f. Questions
 - i. Please contact squaresandstreets@boston.gov]

- ii. Dennis – what happens to article 67? Is that going away? Answer – still remain in place
- iii. Allison – will anything speed this along? Partnership with other agencies.
- iv. Lori – transit rich areas, idea of culture – we have two Roslindale. Can't serve everybody. Seems like we are doing this very fast. Thinking needs to be more concrete.
- v. Nia – will reach out with specific questions. City is growing – what is happening with the infrastructure? Needs to grow with us. Plans can change after the abutters meetings.

> Fornax update

- in process of being sold – owners are retiring. Owner of mi finca has offered to buy it. Intends to keep the same. Sale has not gone through.
- parklet was successful

> Bank of America update

- nothing concrete – someone from Tremont credit union might buy.

> Pedestrian hit on Cummins near Irving School

- minor injuries – need speed humps. Issues with parking outside of PS Gourmet. Dianna – parking is going to investigate area.

> Sumner & Irving school transitions

> Poplar street changes

Presented by Kacy Keenahan