



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

IRAM FAROOQ
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

To: Planning Board
From: CDD Staff
Date: October 14, 2015
Re: **PUD-KS Zoning Proposal (Refiled Petition)**

Update

Following City Council Ordinance Committee and Planning Board hearings earlier in the year, CDD staff embarked on a series of community conversations to improve public awareness of this rezoning proposal and the potential Volpe site redevelopment, and to hear community concerns and questions. The final community forum is scheduled for October 17. This memo provides a brief update on these activities, in anticipation of a more detailed presentation being provided at the October 20, 2015 Planning Board Hearing.

Due to the 90-day time limit to act on a zoning proposal, the petition was refiled in its original form and referred for new hearings at the Planning Board and Ordinance Committee.

Public Hearings

There was significant comment received at the prior Planning Board and Ordinance Committee hearings from Councillors, board members and the public. Some of the major topics of discussion included:

- Affordable housing requirements
- Open space and public amenities
- Retail affordability and diversity
- Built form, height and urban design
- Overall mix of uses

Community Outreach

Both the Ordinance Committee and the Planning Board encouraged staff to undertake a community engagement process in order to gain additional input from stakeholders and residents. Over the summer, CDD engaged with the community through a series of conversations held in a number of locations within close proximity to the Volpe site, including (*see following page*):

- July 30, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Windsor Street Health Center (119 Windsor Street)
- August 5, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. at Rogers Street Park (Rogers St / Third St)
- August 12, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lafayette Square (Mass Ave / Columbia St / Main St)
- August 15, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Greene Rose Park (Harvard St / Moore St)
- August 20, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Kendall Square Farmers' Market (350 Kendall St)
- September 12th, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Clement Morgan Park (Columbia St / Washington St) – Participating as part of The Port, Community Pride Day event
- Friday, September 18, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm "Park(ing) Day" at Broadway and Ames Street

The focus of the conversations was to educate community members about the rezoning proposal, encourage involvement, and gather feedback on various elements of the proposal. These sessions were intended to be informal and convenient for those who might not normally be involved in the City's formal hearing processes. In addition, another community forum is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Kennedy-Longfellow School. Due to conflicts with other city-related meetings this forum was rescheduled from two earlier dates.

The sessions have been well attended with more than 350 people participating. The conversations have resulted in the collection of a diverse range of ideas and suggestions for the future of the Volpe site. Staff has been working to organize and analyze these comments, which will also include the feedback received at the upcoming forum. Staff have also continued to receive written comments, and have attended several neighborhood group meetings to discuss the proposal in detail. At the October 20 Planning Board hearing, staff will provide an overview of the feedback received, which will inform possible changes to the rezoning petition and urban design guidelines for the area.

Next steps

The Ordinance Committee hearing is scheduled for November 12, and it is staff's expectation that the Planning Board's hearing will also be continued to a future date. Based on the key issues raised thus far, any potential revisions to the zoning petition and urban design guidelines will be circulated prior to future hearings.