

Austin St Liaison Committee Meeting Notes
City Hall, Room 205

March 14, 2018

Attending Liaison Cttee Members: Jake Auchincloss (chair/City Councilor), Helene Sroat (Newtonville Area Council), Stephen Logowitz (Newtonville Neighbor), Gwen Noyes (Austin St Partners), Mark Dufton (Austin St Partners), Alison Leary (City Councilor), Margaret Albright (Newton Public School designee), Michael Tucci (Jackson Rd Area Rep)

Absent:, Bill Honeycutt (Newtonville Business Rep), Brian Shaw (Craft Beer),

Also attending: Ouida Young (City Legal Dept), Jonathan Yeo (Mayor's office), Valerie Birmingham (Newton Planning Dept), Joe Cyrulick (Austin Street Partners' consultant), Jonah Temple (Newton Legal Counsel), Tom Kraus, VP Member of NAC

Note: Documents herein referred to and presented in the Liaison Committee (LC) meeting have been posted by Newton's Planning Department on the City's Austin Street project website. Revised updates made in these documents, wherever requested and/or noted in the following minutes, will replace whatever documents are currently posted as soon as they are made available.

Chair's Comments:

- There has been a technical review of 28 Austin Street's parking area, plans have been approved, and a discrepancy in the tally has been fixed. Alison Leary requested that compact spaces have signs indicating their location.
- Trees will be located along Austin St., just in front of the building and will be planted in the ground instead of in the earlier proposed planters. They will continue along the north edge of the plaza. It was discovered that the gas pipe in the street is not as close to the sidewalk as earlier thought, so the trees' root growth will present no hazard when placed in sidewalk level planting areas.

Plaza Plan: (presented by Shauna Gilles of Ground Landscape Architect) Mark Dufton stated that this would be 28 Austin St's final version, as the development team believes it successfully reflects earlier comments and requests received from Cttee: *(See presented illustrations)*

- The close-to-final version of the fountain design takes into consideration multiple requirements: safety, provision of a spray and babbling sound, and has no need for a large water tank over the parking garage. Other attributes of plaza plan: vines growing up screen wall; small flowering trees as well as shade trees; ample seating on the planter edgings that have an 'organic', inviting curvature. Bollards along E side of Bramway will stay as a pedestrian safety measure. A final recommendation for plaza lighting will be made May 2.
- The use of the Plaza and possible closing of Bramway along the plaza edge for occasional events was discussed. It was decided that the business requirements for access will be taken into consideration in the planning of such events, and worked out to the satisfaction of all parties concerned in the future.

Three week Look-Ahead: by Joe Cyrulik: *(See regularly updated Construction Management Plan on City web page)*

- Notification of parking limitations will be provided with signs, fliers, Constant Contact posts and ads.
- Alternate parking notices will be needed for High School graduation on June 6.

Next Liaison Committee Meeting: 7:00 on May 2, Room 205