

SYMMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 22, 2002

Bailey	Dohan*	Hurd	
Carey*	Foskett*	Reedy	
Carr-Jones*	Friedman*	Rehrig*	
DeCoursey*	Greeley	Walkinshaw*	

* Indicates Present

Charles Foskett, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion, the Committee approved the minutes of July 25, 2002.

VHB PRESENTATION-DISCOVERY PHASE: Mr. Ken Schwartz, Project Director for VHB, led a discussion of a draft “Discovery of Themes Document” that VHB had prepared in advance of the meeting. The Discovery document is designed to summarize the work that has been done to date through Phase I of VHB’s assignment. It also includes summaries of the work done to date by the four use working groups (Residential, Commercial, Medical and Public Use) as well as a section on financial viability. Regarding the residential use section, Mr. Dohan noted that he had submitted some suggested revisions to VHB prior to tonight’s meeting. Mr. Schwartz agreed to incorporate these changes into the next draft.

Mr. Foskett proposed that the Working Group Chairs present summaries of their respective sections at the Second Community Workshop. On Motion, the Committee approved this proposal.

CONSULTANT TEAM PRELIMINARY FINDINGS: Mssrs. Schwartz and Schilt of VHB led a presentation regarding the preliminary findings of the various consultant team members. Mr. Schwartz noted that the preliminary findings consist primarily of an analysis of existing conditions at the site and surrounding neighborhood. As part of the presentation, hard copies of particular findings from the following areas were distributed to committee members:

- Architecture (Donham and Sweeney)
- Transportation (Mr. Schilt)
- Environmental/Infrastructure (Mr. Schilt)
- Market/Financial (Mr. Donohoe)

In addition, Mr. Robert Karn of VHB presented preliminary findings of his urban design analysis.

(Note: hard copies of preliminary findings are available on SAC website: www.symmesarlington.org).

CONSULTANT/WORKING GROUP INTERACTION: The Committee discussed the meeting that took place on August 21, 2002 between the use working groups and Mr. Donohoe of RKG. Mr. Donohoe stated that one of the things that RKG is looking for is direction from the Residential and Public Use Working Groups. He stated that the Medical and Commercial Use Working Groups need to work together to find viable solutions at the site. Mr. Donohoe stated that this will be difficult given the extremely soft demand for space in the Suburban Boston Office Market. Members of the Committee discussed a timetable for

getting back to RKG. With the third community workshop tentatively scheduled in five weeks, it was suggested that feedback be given to RKG within the next three weeks.

DRAFT AGENDA – 2nd COMMUNITY WORKSHOP: Ms. Friedman and Mr. Schwartz presented the draft agenda for the Second Community Workshop, which is scheduled to take place at the Town Hall on August 28, 2002. Ms. Friedman reviewed the proposed setup and logistics for this event. One of the stated goals was to allow for audience participation following the working group presentations and again after the Consultant Team presents its preliminary findings.

UPDATES: Mr. Foskett requested that Mr. Schwartz update the Committee on the proposed business roundtable and on the identification of comparable redevelopment projects. Given the late hour, all parties agreed to continue this discussion at a future meeting.

On Motion, the Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.