

## **Symmes Advisory Committee Public Use Working Group Meeting Minutes, 7 May 2002 Arlington Senior Center**

**Attending:** Harris Band, Greg Blass, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Cindy Friedman (Community Outreach Working Group Co-Chair), Steve Frigand, Ellen Kushner, Suzi Lubar, Deborah O'Donnell, Linda Privitera, Brian Rehrig (Chair), Jay Verspyck

**Not Attending:** Ann LeRoyer, Jim Marzilli, Sue Sheffler, Denis Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

### **Symmes Community Outreach**

Cindy Friedman presented an overview of the activities of the Symmes Community Outreach Working Group. Cindy stated that the goals of the Group were to provide as many opportunities for people to participate in the process of decision-making as possible, and to allay any concerns that people might have about the Symmes project. The three main activities of the Group will be to conduct and tabulate the town-wide survey, develop a standardized informational presentation for the Symmes Advisory Committee, and work with the consultant to plan and conduct the community charrette. Cindy reported that the survey, which was mailed to roughly 19,000 Arlington households in April, has resulted in at least 1,800 responses.

Working Group members asked questions about how the survey and collective contact lists would coordinate with the efforts of the consultant and outreach group. Ideas were voiced about: incorporating the perspectives of providers and recipients in the decision-making process, attaining a balance between the influence of special interest groups and the general public, the alternative-funding potential of certain mixed-use projects, the need for the consultant to think creatively, and the importance of ultimately developing a cohesive vision for the entire Symmes project.

### **Public Use Contact List**

Ellen Kushner presented and updated public use contact list and reported that she had incorporated the list of social, civic and cultural organizations.

### **Status of RFP**

Brian Rehrig reported that interest in the RFP continued to be high, with roughly 50 copies being requested and a well-attended bidders conference.

### **Criteria for Use Evaluation Presentation**

Brian Rehrig reported that Steve Frigand's presentation of the Working Group's Criteria for Use Evaluation for public use projects was enthusiastically received by the Symmes Advisory Committee at their meeting of 2 May. The Working Group discussed how the Criteria might be presented to the public and agreed that the three categories (Need, Fit and Feasibility) should be defined using a few of the criterion from each category.

### **Working Group Membership**

Jay Verspyck (44 Kensington Road, Arlington MA 02476, [jv@rothmanpartners.com](mailto:jv@rothmanpartners.com)) was welcomed as a member of the Public Use Working Group.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Symmes Public Use Working Group was set for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, 28 May 2002 at the Jefferson Cutter House.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

### **Handouts**

7 May 2002 Meeting Agenda, with Schedule of Milestones for consultant RFP, Symmes Public Use Working Group Contact List