

31 Tufts Street Nov 18 Community Meeting

Summary of Comments:

Parking

- Several comments about need for off-street parking; some neighbors not convinced that arrival of Green Line Extension will reduce parking demand in neighborhood. “.5 parking [ratio] is not adequate for this neighborhood”
- Consider working with City to add more on-street parking to Tufts St?
- Parking access makes more sense from Tufts because it's a two way. Glen St is a one-way sending most traffic into the neighborhood.
- Parking during snow emergencies is problematic; would there be a way to have temporary parking for snow emergencies only?

Open Space

- Will be important to make open space feel public, welcoming. Concern that it will be co-opted by residents of new building.
- On-going maintenance of open space will be important
- The open/park space - can this be geared towards adult use more than children (lawn chairs for reading rather than playground equipment, etc)
- Rather have the public space face Glen Street because Tufts Street is busier.
- Concern with the city taking over maintenance of the public space. Much rather have the project take care of public space
- Use plantings with seasonal interest specifically evergreens
- Desire for passive open space-a place to relax, read, sit, “lay out a beach chair”

Building

- Community did not understand or necessarily agree with the RFP priority for small units. Why should the project have smaller housing units? Can it also have family units?
- Confusion about the RFP priority for arts/artist living space; not much interest in this idea.
- A question about the need for more housing: “the idea that you need to squeeze more people into Somerville is a false narrative”
- OK to have building height on Tufts Street.
- Some preferred the idea of having the building to be located along Tufts Street, higher with a smaller footprint. Maximize the amount of parking.
- No concern with 4 stories as long as there is enough parking and public space.
- Ground floor units in adjacent condos present a constraint
- Minimize shadows cast on neighbor's lots.

- Building facade materials and overall design - speak to the history of the area, consider industrial materials such as brick, etc. How to merge industrial with residential styles (surrounding context)
- Understand the history of the surrounding buildings to understand their architecture.
- Most people felt comfortable with a 3 story building; a few were okay with 4 stories.

Construction

- Concerns about construction impact on neighbors
- Regarding Glen Street project: "There was dust and debris in my yard and they didn't do anything about it"
- Several community members voiced concerns about air quality in Somerville.