

Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes for 1/9/05

7:05 PM Meeting called to order

Secretary's Report Dec 2005 Meeting Minutes accepted

1) Nuestra Comunidad - presented proposal for retail space at 35 W Newton

Nuestra Comunidad merged with BACU and now owns 35 West Newton. The building is an SRO (Single Room Occupancy) building. Nuestra is looking to create retail space on the ground floor in order to bring in rental income. Rental income should enable Nuestra to also renovate other areas of the building like bathrooms, rooms and hallways.

- Retail space is less than 3000 sq ft and includes a basement space.
- 1 Resident Manager unit.
- Elizabeth Ortiz is Property Manager
- Preliminary stages of attracting interest in this retail space
- Maybe a restaurant with venting of kitchen above building
- Possibly outdoor space
- Abutters concerned about:
 - Trash
 - Venting on roof has to be done properly so as not to impinge on abutters roof decks
 - Sheila Grove suggested two doorways – one on Washington Street.
- Potentially looking Section 8-11 to see if this is an additional source of funding.
 - This should not change the current make-up of residents.

2) Washington Gateway Main Street

Sheila Grove and Randi Lathrop presented on Washington Gateway.

- \$125,000 annual budget (25% City funded) which is mostly obtained through fundraising.
- Rehab area spans Super 88 Grocery at Arlington Street all the way to Melnea Cass – 1.4 miles.
- Washington Gateway helps with zoning, public works, helps businesses plan, obtain financing and more. Not just businesses on Washington.
- Has brought in much needed new business to revitalize the area.
- More housing (a percentage of which is affordable).
- Washington Gateway is also looking for volunteers!

8:36 Adjourned